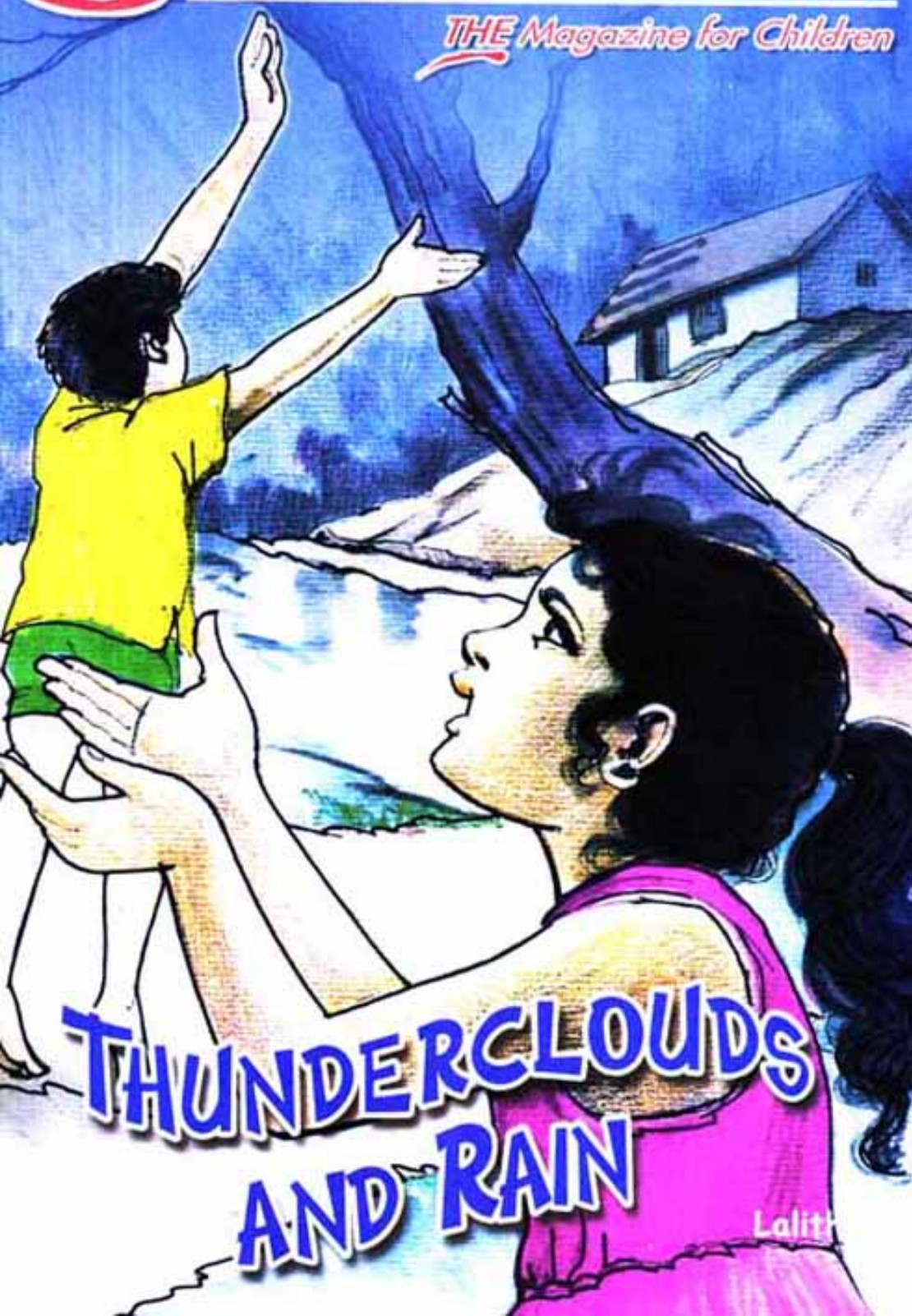


SEPTEMBER 2006 Rs.8/- 80 Pages

GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children



**THUNDERCLOUDS
AND RAIN**

Lalith



Mystic blues

Anjali Chandrashekar, Std V ,
P.S.B.B. S.S.School, Chennai.

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Art Gallery,
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Cover design: Lalithaa



The drawing featured on top of each page in this issue is by

S. Karpagam,
Std II, Velammal Matric
Hr. Sec. School, Chennai

We Salute all teachers
on Teacher's Day



05 September



SEPTEMBER 2006
Vol. XIX, No.3

Of all created things the loveliest,
And most divine are children.

-William Canton

GOKULAM
THE Magazine for Children



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THE Magazine for Children

BOOKS, THE BEST COMPANIONS

Dear Reader,

Our President is being looked upon by the youth of this country as a guiding star. He in turn interacts a lot with students. He expects them to have a vision of the future and to work towards set goals. He wants our country to develop as a super power.

Abdul Kalam has earned our respect since he has risen from humble beginnings and is now the first citizen of our country. But this has not come about easily. It has been years of toil, study and research for him, resulting in achievements.

Did you know that Kalam has never seen a movie in fifty years? He was literally wedded to his research programmes. "Books were my best companions" he says.



Movies and TV channels are tempting indeed. But will power can overcome these temptations and get the best out of books. The basic difference is that books exercise the brain, activating it to think and enquire. Movies and TV channels make you just accept. It is total surrender of the mind.

Let this not happen to us. Let us choose good magazines like Gokulam and interesting books by reputed authors for wholesome reading. Just fifty pages a day and you would have read 18,000 pages a year! That would certainly make us better persons than we are now!

— EDITOR

Letter Box



✉ The cover story about birds was enjoyable. The new features are also good.

— G. Ragavijaya,
Std VIII, Jawahar
Hr.Sec. School,
Neyveli

✉ I am a regular reader of Gokulam. It helps me improve my language. I like Grandmaworm, Hello Doctor, and the stories. I request for more serial stories.

— N.S. Deepika,
Std VI, Sophia High
School, Bangalore.

✉ I was browsing through a book shop near my house. I noticed a separate stand with "Widely read, truly trusted" written in bold letters. I was glad to see Gokulam displayed on that stand! I am a regular reader of your magazine.

— G.P. Mahitha, Std VII,
Kendriya Vidyalaya,
Ashok Nagar,
Chennai

✉ I love Gokulam very much. My favourites are Tinku, puzzle pages, jokes, and Art Gallery. I find Wonder Science very interesting.

— Shreena G Nair Thane

✉ I am a regular reader of Gokulam. I read Hello Doctor and Grandmaworm. I also like the stories puzzles and jokes.

— P. Nellai
Kumar,
Coimbatore.



✉ There is a

**Widely Read,
Truly Trusted!**

clarification
in your good article:
"P.O.A Part of Our Lives!" (Gokulam
Aug.2006). "Dead Letter Office" is no longer
used and is now being called "Returned
Letter Office".

— T.M. Sundararaman, Chennai

✉ Gokulam is our family magazine. We like the science section very much. Creative Corner is very good. Other sections are also interesting.

— Kamal Bharucha, Mumbai

Sports

Formula One, abbreviated to F1, is also known as Grand Prix racing. The highest class of single-seat formula cars participate in these races. The 'formula' is a set of rules that the cars and drivers must meet. An F1 season begins in March and ends in October. It consists of a series of races, each one called a Grand Prix. They are held in specially built tracks or circuits. In a few cases the race is run on closed city streets. The cars race at speeds over 300 kmph. Points are awarded to the top eight drivers and teams, as per their position at the end of each race. The results of all the races are combined to decide the two World Championships; one for the driver and one for the team.

Grand Prix races are held all over the world but most of them are in Europe, where the sport originated. Being the most expensive sport, it has significant impact on the economic and political fields. It requires high investment from sponsors.

The F1 series had its roots in the European Grand Prix Motor Racing of the 1920s and 1930s. However due to the World Wars, it was only in 1950 that the first race was run. In the beginning, they were modified cars, which were very heavy, bulky and unreliable. One of the influences

that shaped F1 racing, as we know it today, is technology. Every year saw improvements in cars, engines, tyres and other areas. The 1970s saw the dramatic change in the shape of the cars, due to the emerging change in the science behind aerodynamics. The 1980s saw the introduction of 'wings', which help keep the cars pinned to the ground. Thus the cars were able to go at greater speeds and turn corners without flying off the tracks. Turbochargers, together with radial tyres, marked the next major development. These two innovations allowed for faster cars and greater



grip. Even today the wrong tyre can cost the driver the race.

Safety is always an issue at such high speeds. F1 is no different. Many drivers were killed in the 1960s. This led to the introduction of safety measures such as roll bars, dual braking system, fire protection, protective clothing, helmets and safe fuel tanks. F1 was fatality free for a record twelve years, until that



horrific weekend in 1994 during the San Marino Grand Prix. Friday's practise session saw an injured Rubens Barrichello in hospital. Saturday's qualifying proved fatal for Roland Ratzenberger. But the biggest shock of all was the death of legendary driver Ayrton Senna on Sunday. A tragic end to a brilliant ace, just when he had got together all the teams and drivers to commit to stricter safety standards. Since then the focus of the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile, the regulating body of the sport, has been a quest for the balance

and choice of tyres the drivers start with, timing of pitstops and overtaking opportunities.

Michael Schumacher set the new record for the most Grand Prix wins beating earlier record holder Alain Prost. He has won the title seven times, beating Juan

High Speed High Octane



Manuel Fangio's five championships. In 2005, Fernando Alonso became the youngest World Champion ever. Jenson

Button was the youngest driver to win a point in his very first race.

We have our very own Narain Karthikeyan, who raced for Jordon, the last year. He should be back on the circuit next year.

of speed and safety. F1 cars are as fast as ever before but safer as well.

While speed is of essence, so is strategy, this includes amount of fuel

Grandmaworm

Dear Grandma,

I am in the tenth standard and I have scored very poor marks in the first cycle test. I am afraid to show the marks to my parents. How am I to overcome this fear?

— Vijayendran, Chennai

Dear Vijay,

The only way to overcome your fear is to make up your mind to study well in future and score good marks.



ing is also necessary. Don't be lazy!



I am studying in a co-education school. But I don't have girl-friends. I feel shy to talk to them. My mother says that I should overcome this trait. But my cousins warn me that the girls will cause nothing but trouble for

Good or Bad?



Generally students score low marks because they don't understand the subject. You must have the courage to approach your teacher at school or some elderly person who can guide you properly. Once you have taken a decision as above you can promise your parents that you will do better next time. Also, talk to them frankly if you have difficulty in learning or understanding. They are sure to excuse you this time. A warn-



me! Please advise.

— R. Koushik, Chenn.

Dear Koushik,

Let us face it: Girls are different from boys. They mature at a much earlier age than boys in respect of both body and mind. You are entering the teenage and you are curious about the opposite sex. This creates



some shyness in you. You can easily overcome this problem if you learn to respect girls. Once you approach them with respect in addition to friendliness they will respond in the same manner, and you will enjoy their company.



I love animals especially dogs. I want to become a veterinarian. But I am afraid of birds! How do I overcome this fear?

— R. Subramani,
Bangalore

Dear Subramani,

You have to realise that a pet parrot or even a macaw is no more dangerous than a pet dog. Your pet dog too has fangs and it can be harmful to be bitten by it. However it doesn't harm you because it knows that you look after it and love it. It is the same with birds too. They won't



harm you if you don't tease them. Start with small birds like love-birds or sparrows; then move on to doves and parrots. As you know, even eagles can become pets!



I leave for school at 7 am., and I'm back at 4.30 pm. My school is seven kilometres away and I pedal my bicycle to school. When I come back I'm totally exhausted and I can't think of anything except going to bed! What am I to do?

— Vicky, Imphal.

Dear Vicky,

Cycling fourteen kilometres a day is naturally very tiresome, though very good exercise. You must take highly nourishing food to withstand the strain. Only then will you be able to overcome your fatigue. Another way out would be to give up cycling and try some other mode of transport like a bus or moped. For the present, you can rest for an hour after coming back from school and then start your daily evening routine, and carry on until you go to bed at night.

Love,
Grandmaworm



Serial-Chapter 3

Basavappa Nagar, a suburban colony of Bangalore, now renamed as Bangalura, consisted mostly of independent houses, built on small plots. The streets lined with saplings planted years ago, were turning out to be cool avenues. A few plots were still vacant here and there. Perhaps the owners purchased them for their real estate value and were waiting for the price to appreciate still further

before selling them off.

Renu played cricket with his friends in one of these vacant plots. He was the 'Sachin' of his team, but he also studied the styles of other batting experts. He watched carefully the replays of their strokes during live telecasts of matches and tried to improve himself. He was good at studies too, though he did not hold the first or second rank.

Life was peaceful for Renu, except for the bugging by his sister. Just when he was admiring Dravid's innings his sister would deliberately switch over to another sports channel! "Hey! stupid," Renu would shout. "What are you trying to do?"

"Simple! I want to watch Lara face Warne in his homeground," Geetha would retort.

"Oh! I see; will you please tell me which is the home town of Lara?"

Geetha would blink.

"Can you atleast tell, where the West Indies is located? In which ocean?"

"I don't have



The CASE of the CUPBOARD

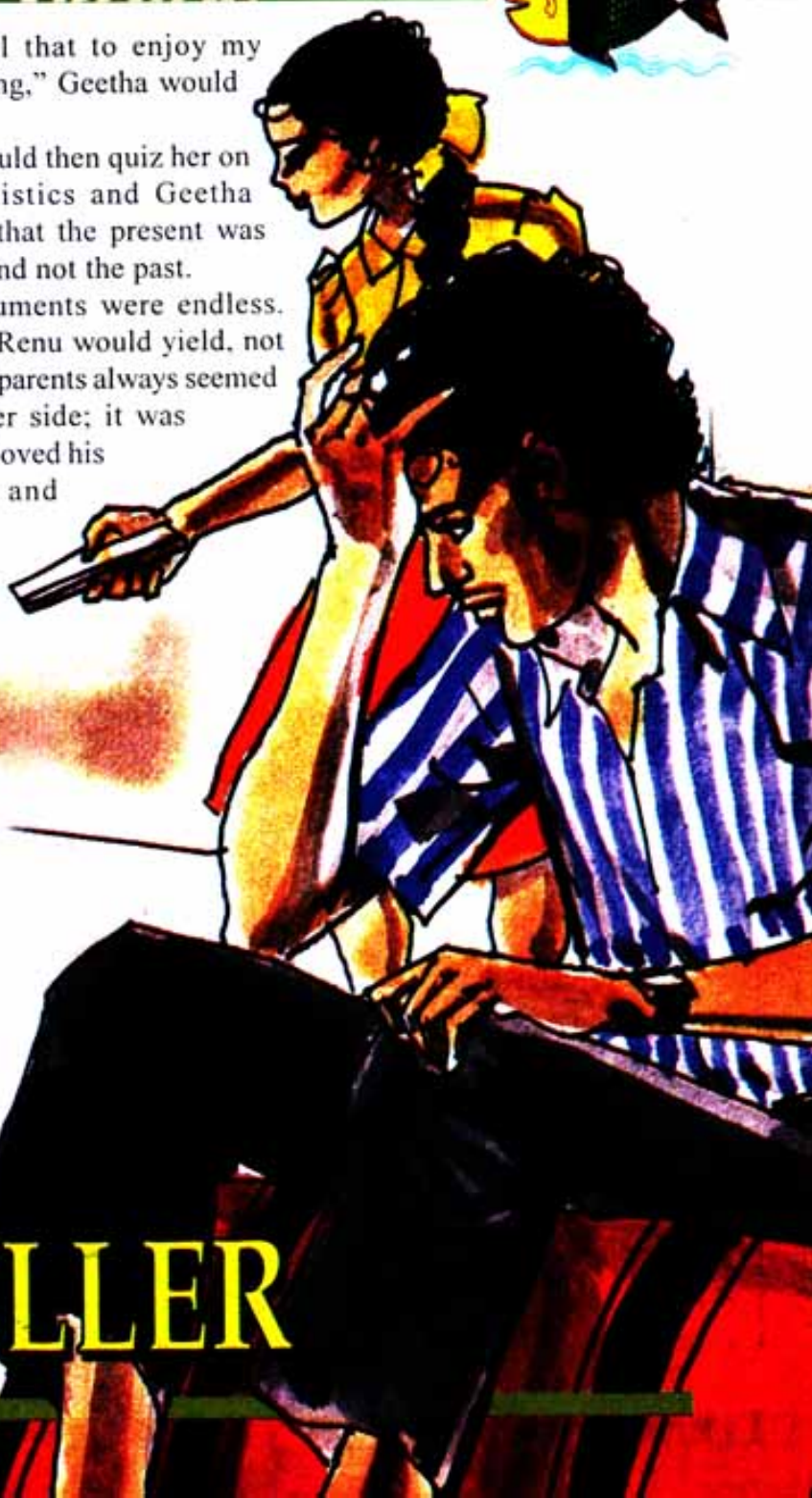
VIJAYAN



to know all that to enjoy my hero's batting," Geetha would say.

Renu would then quiz her on Lara's statistics and Geetha would say that the present was important and not the past.

The arguments were endless. Ultimately Renu would yield, not because his parents always seemed to be on her side; it was just that he loved his sister and



PULLER

wanted her to be happy. The teasing and yielding were all part of it.

Even now he was not bothered about her using his mobike without permission. Nor was he much worried about his being late to college. He was more concerned about her safety. He rightly guessed that she would have gone to “study the scene of the crime” and so made a bee line to Samuel’s house.

Meanwhile the “Power puff girls” who were quite familiar to most of the house owners in Basavappa Nagar — and vice versa— were questioning Samuel at his residence.

“What was the original location of the cupboard?”

“How far has it been dragged?”

“Can you give us a tape or a scale to measure the distance? Thank you.”

“What was the value of the jewellery lost? How much money was stolen? Are you sure that noth-

ing else is lost?”

Questions - Answers - Inferences. The girls took notes too in their pocket books.

At last, a tired Samuel said: “Look, do you really want to help me?... In that case just leave me alone!”

“Sorry uncle,” said Renu who had just walked in. “They are just over enthusiastic.” He turned to his sister. “Geetha! Mom wants you to return home immediately. It’s getting late for all of you. Your school bus will be here in half an hour.”

“We know that” said Geetha. “No need to state the obvious.”

“In any case we have finished our investigations here,” said Rita.

“We were just leaving” said Suriya.

Renu allowed them the use of his motorcycle. It was getting late and also he did not want to create another scene.

• • •

Goutham was not surprised when the Commissioner of Police himself called on him that evening at his home. He was well aware of the powerful connections his friend Sastry had in government circles. But he was a trifle embarrassed to receive such a high dignitary in his rather modest drawing room.

Mukherjee didn’t seem to mind. He made himself comfortable in a cane chair, adjusted the cushions



Customer: I want a paper dosa.

Waiter: Ruled or unruled?

— N. Kumuthini,
Std V, Saradha Matric School,
Gingee

and came straight to the point:

"I've studied the case," he said. "There is not much we can do at present. There is no clue at all as to who the culprit is. There is no evidence to lead us to him."

"But sir," Gowtham began. "I thought you will give us police protection. That's the least you can do. How can the people of this area get any sleep at all hereafter? 'Once, bitten twice shy' as the saying goes. We've been bitten twice already!"

"Oh! I understand your anxiety," said Mukherjee, "and I'm not denying you police protection. But it can't last too long, we don't have enough police personnel to deploy all over Bangaluru. After sometime you'll have to make your own arrangements."

"Like what?" Geetha butted in.

"The CoP (Commissioner of Police) turned his head to meet her eyes. Geetha expecting a rebuff was pleasantly surprised at the smile he flashed at her.

"Do you have a residents association?" he asked.

"No" said Goutham, as Geetha shook her head.

"Well that could be a starting point," said the CoP. "There are a little over one hundred houses in this colony. If each family contributes twenty five rupees a month you'll have two thousand five hundred rupees. You can hire a security guard. Ask him to blow a



Customer: I want to return this defective flute.

Shopkeeper: What is wrong with it?

Customer: Can't you see these holes in it?

— Ananya Mishra,
Age 14, Bhubaneswar

whistle now and then on his rounds. The residents will know that he is on the job and the burglars will be warned to keep off this area. You become the convener, Goutham. Call for a meeting of the residents of Basavappa Nagar and address them."

"That's sound advise for the future," said Rita; But..."

"It's not going to solve the mystery of the twin crimes already committed," Geetha completed the sentence for her. As soon as the words were out of her mouth, she bit her tongue.

She had gone too far this time. CoP beckoned her. "Come here", he said rather sternly. He was surely going to put her in place! Perhaps even slap her!

(To be continued)

DIVINE CHILD-3

LEADING LIGHT

Story, Pictures:
Thamarai

Dhruva is the blessed soul who worshipped Lord Vishnu and performed severe penance for His Grace. He attained the honour of becoming the pole star.

King Uttanapada had two wives. The king favoured his younger queen, Suruchi. Each queen had a son. Dhruva was Sunithi's son, and Suruchi's son was Uthama. Seeing Uthama sitting on the king's lap, Dhruva came running to join him.



...she said angrily.



Young Dhruva ran crying to his mother Sunithi.



He told her all that had happened.





Dhruva, please think. Will you be able to do penance at such a tender age?

Sage Maricha advised Dhruva on what to do..

Think of Lord Narayana and chant his name.

Oh, learned one! Just show me the way to attain the Lord.

As advised by the Saptha Rishis, Dhruva chanted Lord Narayana's name and did penance. Suddenly there arose a terrible storm....

It rained continuously for many days. But Dhruva was determined and thought only of Lord Narayana.



His severe penance shook the Devaloka. All the Devas approached Indra.

Devendra! Dhruva's penance spells danger to your post.

Devendra went to see Lord Narayana.

My Lord! I am in danger of losing my position because of Dhruva. You have to protect me.

Don't worry, Indra! He is seeking my blessings, not your position.



Lord Narayana appeared before Dhruva.

Dhruva, my child! I am pleased with your determination and severe penance. Ask and I shall grant you any boon.



Oh Lord Bhaktavatsala! My step-mother says that because I am not her child I do not have the right to sit on my father's lap. Just as Indra enjoys all the wealth with Your blessings, I too wish to attain an exalted state by Your Grace.



Lord Narayana granted him his wish and said...

Dhruva! Now on you shall appear as the brightest star in the constellation of the Sapta Rishis. Those who worship you, both morning and evening, shall attain Divine Grace.



Dhruva shines as a star, (pole star or Dhruva nakshathram). He showed that age is of no consequence to attain Divine Grace. He kept the promise he made to his mother too!



The End

News Digest

Five year old Prince was rescued from a 60 ft. deep narrow pit in which he had fallen accidentally. The incident occurred in the state of Haryana. The army was called to help. They located a dried up well a little distance

• Five year old Prince



away from the bore well pit, dug a little deeper into the well and connected it to the pit by

Peace Pigeons and War Hawks

forming a tunnel. Meanwhile, Prince was given food, water and oxygen by lowering them tied to ropes. After two days of suspense, the jawans brought the boy above ground. Lessons: 1) Never leave a pit or well open. 2) Watch your step, children!

Israel, following the U.S policy that not only terrorism but harbouring terrorists was also an act of aggression, conducted missile attacks on Lebanon. The attacks were aimed at Hizbollah terrorists entrenched in Lebanon, but went very much off the mark. Property worth millions was destroyed. Hundreds of innocent people

were killed — many of them children. The government of India arranged for evacuation of Indians working in Lebanon.



Justice Pathak in his enquiry report has clearly said that Natwar Singh misused his official position as minister for external affairs, to get "Oil for food" contracts from the Iraqi government, in favour of two persons, who were very close to him and his son Jagat Singh. The deal fetched \$ 1.46,000 which went into a swiss

bank account and then disappeared! The Congress party has suspended Natwar Singh from

membership and has issued a show cause notice. Natwar Singh though not a direct beneficiary, is unable to defend his conduct and is heaping abuses on the Prime Minister, instead!



• Natwar Singh

Tamil refugees are pouring into Tamilnadu after war resumed between the Srilankan army and the LTTE. There seems to be no peace in sight, in spite of best efforts by the Norwegian Peace Mission.

What chance has a peace pigeon, with so many hawks being bred all over the world!

Creative Corner



MAGIC RUBBER!

You can make your erasers more beautiful by having your favourite picture on them.

Things required : An eraser, a drop of oil, your favourite picture.

I : Apply a drop of oil (any) and spread it out on the surface of the eraser where you want the picture to be.

II : Choose a nice small printed colour picture with a non-glossy surface.

III : Keep your eraser on the picture, oily surface facing the picture, and press it down for about 15 sec.

IV : Very carefully remove the eraser, with an upward movement of the arm.

Now look at the oily surface and wonder of wonders... You will have your favourite picture on it, but reversed.

Find out yourself, why the picture is reversed!

Warning : Using this eraser might leave oily marks on your books!

– R. Aadhirai,
Std.X, Kendriya
Vidyalaya, Chennai

Make your own pet

Materials required :

Old Socks (grey or white)

Sponge or old cloth

Buttons

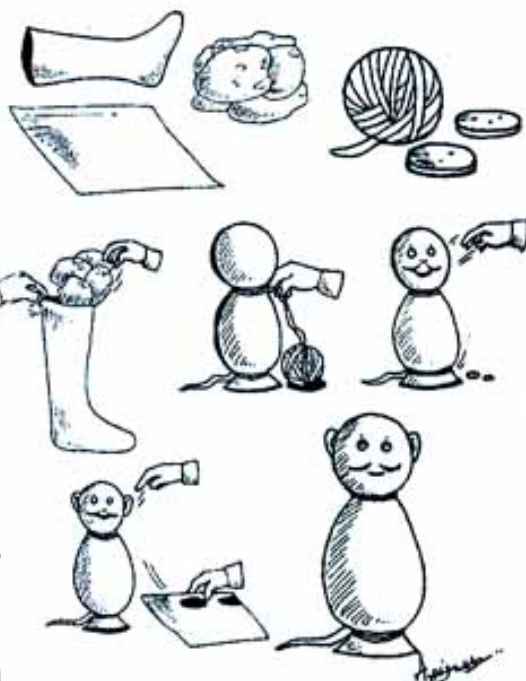
A long piece of thread

String

Cardboard

Procedure : Stuff the sock with sponge or cloth till it takes a round shape. Tie the end with a long thick thread. Now turn the stuffed socks around and taper the thread to form a tail. Tie a piece of thread at about an inch from the top, constricting the stuffed sock to form a 'neck'. Sew on buttons for eyes and nose. Make whiskers out of the string and paste them onto the face. Stick the cardboard for ears. Your pet is ready.

– R.S.Lalithaa,
Sri Vidya Mandir, Salem



Experience

Missing Eyebrows

This incident happened to me when I was four years old at Chennai. My uncle would keep his shaving razor on the top of the showcase. Unfortunately, one day he left the razor on the table after his shave and went out. My elder cousin saw this and invited me for a shave. He stood me straight in front of him and shaved off both my eyebrows! Then, he made his brother stand for the same operation. Our grandmother came inside and saw what my cousin brother had done. She took the shaving razor from him and scolded all of us for playing with it. She called to my uncle to see what had happened to us children. She scolded him too, for leaving the razor on the table carelessly.

My aunty who was watching, came in with an eyebrow pencil and drew both my eyebrows.

– Aji Abraham, Std VI,
Chinmaya
Vidyalaya,
Tripunithura



Mistaken Identity

Once a monkey, had been haunting our neighbourhood. Stealing



chappatis, plucking fruits, jumping on terraces, it was a great menace. One afternoon,

‘THUD!’ ‘THUD!’ ‘THUD!’

Suddenly a shirek rent the air – “Monkey, monkey, get that monkey!”

And out rushed onto their terrace my neighbour, with his whole clan armed with sticks, expecting to see the monkey enjoying its jumps on their terrace. Instead all they could see was my mother from our terrace, knocking at the papayas with a long stick. They peeped below, only to see some ripe papayas on the ground. Then to avoid their embarrassment they started laughing. My mother who was at first embarrassed, joined in too!

– Diganta Jena, Std VIII,
D.A.V Public School,
Bhubaneswar

GET the

A Trek in the Forest

My family was planning a trip to the Sholayar forest for a trek. That night my father told me about the thick forest and the wild animals living in it. We went to sleep thinking of the adventurous trip we were going to experience the next day.

We started our journey early in the



MONKEY!

morning, and reached the forest in

the afternoon. We started trekking, enjoying the beauty of the nature. We walked a long distance. Suddenly we heard a loud noise. It seemed to be the roar of a tiger. We all got terrified and started to run. While running, I stumbled and fell into a deep pit. I cried loudly, calling out to my father and mother.

I heard my father call me. I suddenly opened my eyes and realized that I was lying on the floor! Every-

one was laughing at me. It was all a dream!

– Devika G. Varma, Std VI,
Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Tripunithura

Mothers' Day

It happened in May. I had participated in the Brookbond Red Label Mothers' Day surprise contest. I emerged a winner among the ten who were decided by a lucky draw of lots. My joy knew no bounds. I came to know about this when I was watching the premiere of Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban.

When I returned to Trichy after my vacation, I found the June issue of Gokulam in my letter box. My article had been published! Surely May was full surprises!

– S. Sai Priya, Std IX,
Mahatma Gandhi Centenary
Vidyalaya, Trichy



Story

This is India in 3050AD.
I am Rohan, a ten year old.

Today is a very special day. My family along with many others from our town, are leaving for the moon. No, not on a holiday. We are re-locating. You see, the earth has become very congested. Our departure is scheduled for eleven o'clock this morning. It is with a heavy heart that my parents and I had one last look around our town on our way to the space station.

There are ten huge rockets stationed. The counters are crowded with people waiting to check-in. There is a lot of noise and confusion. And a lot of excitement too! Children are running around playing with their friends. There is an announcement over the public address system asking parents to ensure that their children stay close to them. The scene reminds me of the one I saw of a 'mela' on the CD from the library.

Earlier in the week, my friends and I had been to the museum—one last time. There we had seen a lot of things which we no longer see. There were specimens of a frog, some snakes, parrot and also a

mango.

The curator told us that the mango was a very famous fruit and was called the 'King of Fruits'. The term 'fruit' was itself new to me! I also saw some plant varieties. There was one called the 'touch-me-not'. The most interesting specimen I thought was 'water'. It looked so nice and clear. It looked just like the chemical which we take to quench our thirst.



Soon it is time to board our spaceship, 'BANYAN FOUR'. My father told me that banyan was the name of a tree which used to grow in the 'village' of his forefathers. Apparently it's large canopy provided shade under which older people would sit and discuss matters of social and current interest while the children would play. I am told the roots came down like pillars. In very old banyan trees, you could not tell the roots from the main trunk! It was also home to many birds and beasts.



On board we are provided with oxygen masks a little different from the ones we use at home. We are also provided with special suits. We have been allotted a VIP cabin. This is because my father is the Chief Scientist of Born Oxygen Limited. He will take charge of

With a loud roar our rocket takes off.

I ask my father, "What if the moon also gets too populated to live in?" I am waiting for his answer!

– K. Sri Harsha, Std XII,
Sri Chaitanya IIT,
Visakhapatnam

the Moon!



their unit on the moon.

Our rocket is ready for launch. The countdown begins.

Poet's Corner



THE LOCKED BIRD!

*Little Birdie is in the cage
Looking sad in quiet rage
Shut in a cage, no fresh air,
Her mother not there to care.
She wants to be free, to fly away,*

AN ODE TO POETRY

*What is poetry?
Someone asked me
What do I say?
That it is a sea!
A sea of words
That mostly rhyme?
A bunch of words
You sometimes mime?
Poetry is a form of
Writing about lot of things,
A poem can be written*

*Like any other bird be
merry and gay.
No one is there to set her free
She can't help, but be jealous of birds
on the tree.*

*Pining for freedom, Birdie almost
died,
She sat gazing out and quietly cried.
When her mistress noticed, she
opened the door.
Soon Birdie flew out, a prisoner no
more.*

*So set your locked birds free,
Let them live peacefully
Where they belong
Or they won't sing their song!*

**– Padmapriya Govindarajan,
Std VI,
Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan,
Chennai**

WHAT'S

*About birds or wings.
A poem can be about
Someone you love,
A special day in your life,
Or a beautiful white dove.
There are no rules
and certainly no tools,
You just have to write
About what you think is right.
About what you see
And what you don't,*



I MISS YOU



Here were days happy and gay
I miss you everyday.
There were days when together we'd
play

I miss you each day.

There were days when we were together
Sunrise and sunset both were bright
Carroms and chess were won by you
By scoring shots and killing knights!

Laughter and fun we enjoyed;
Some anger and tears were there too.
I am very much in need of you
I miss you, my father, I miss you.

– V. Aditya,
Std VI,
Sri Sankara S.S.School,
Adyar.

POETRY?

About what you'll do
And what you won't.
It can be about
What you like
Or about two things
Which are alike.
Poetry is beautiful,
Something wonderful.

– Nithya Ramachandran,
Std X, Bhavan's Rajaji
Vidhyashram, Chennai



Surya : Poor Sanjay! You didn't have a single correct answer in your algebra paper. Sanjay, is there anything you know?
Sanjay: Oh yes, there is. I know you



Patient: Doctor, how can you say so firmly, without checking, that I need glasses?

Doctor: Because, in spite of the door being open, you came in through the window.

— M.V. Suhas, Std VI,
 Nagarjuna Vidyaniketan, Bangalore

Raju: Grandpa will you lend me a rupee?

Grandpa: What did you say? I'm a little deaf in my right ear, Raja. Speak into my left ear.



**SNAKES DON'T
 HAVE FEET**



are sitting on a bench that's marked "wet paint."

— S. Steffy, Std VIII, Nirmala Matha
 Convent Matric Hr.Sec.School,
 Kurliamuthur



Teacher: In this box I have a ten foot snake.

Sammy: You can't fool me, teacher.

Snakes don't have feet.

— D. Sam Sundar, Chennai

Raju: Grandpa lend me ten rupees.

Grandpa: Heh? Heh! You better go back to the one rupee ear.

— V. Vignesh, Std VIII, S.T.G.J.V,
 Chennai

Pottering Around



J.K. Rowling has hidden a lot of clues in Order of the Pheonix (UK edition) that tell us who is likely to die! However, it takes a cunning eye to spot them...

- Just as they enter 12, Grimmauld Place, it says, "The others' hushed voices were giving Harry an odd feeling of foreboding, it was as though they had just entered the house of a dying person." Pg - 59

- On Harry's first night at 12, Grimmauld Place, the entire house sits down to dinner, thirteen in all. According to Bulawney in Prince of Azkaban, when thirteen people dine together, the first one to rise is the first to die. "Sirius started to rise from his chair." Pg-86

- In St.Mungo's, when they are going to visit

to die, foreshadowing the death of Sirius.

- When Hagrid, Harry and Hermione run into the Centaurs, Ronald makes the pronouncement, "Always the innocent are the first



The Prophecy!

Mr. Weasley, they climbed a flight of stairs and entered the "Creature-Induced Injuries" corridor, where the second door on the right bore the words - 'Dangerous' 'DAI LLEWELLYN WARD' 'SERIOUS BITES'. If you rearrange these words they would read: Kreacher dangerous, Die Sirius...

- Sirius tells Harry, Ron and Hermione to call him "Snuffler". To 'snuff it' means

victims."

Everyone thought Sirius was guilty, but he turned out to be innocent.

- Catherine Nipps Std X,
Holy Cross H.S. School,
Pension Bada, Raipur

Hello Doctor

- R.Kezia Blessinda,
Nagercoil-1

? When the skin is the sense organ of touch and pain, how do we feel the pain, which occurs inside our body?

! Not only the skin but all visceral organs (i.e., organs inside our body) contain pain receptors at their free nerve endings. Any chemical stimuli caused by tissue injury, lack of blood supply to the organ, over distension or spasm of the organ, inflammation, stones in the gallbladder or kidney stimulate the pain receptors and we feel pain.



- R.Subbramani,
Bangalore-28

? Why do people die if they consume poison?

! Poison is a substance, which if introduced in the living body, will produce ill health or death.

Death is mainly due to the toxicity of the chemical present in the poison.

- P.Srinidhi,
Bangalore.

? What are age

WILL

controlling tablets? How useful are they? Do they really work as they claim?

! Ageing is a normal physiological phenomenon occurring in our body. Usually the growth and reproduction of the cells become slow, as we grow older. This is because ageing cells become less responsive to growth promoting factors in our body. There is no medicine or tablet to control ageing so far. If it is discovered in the future, it will surely be a miracle!





R. Siddharth, Coimbatore-15

? I am 158 cms tall and 16 years old now. Besides doing yoga, is there any way to increase my height? Can food supplements help increase height?

! Height is genetically and nutritionally determined. It means that you will normally take after your parents and grandparents in terms of height. If they are tall you will probably be tall and if they are short you will probably be short. Good nutrition, particularly protein rich food,

nique" could help you. Consult an orthopedic surgeon.

● **S.Nivedha, Chennai**

? My body gets heated very



YOGA HELP?

also plays a role in making you taller. Height cannot be increased by any medicine. Certain yogasanas like sarvangasana or a long term surgical procedure named "Ilizorov Tech-

soon. Please suggest some ways to reduce body heat.

This is what you must do every-day.

- Drink at least 10 glasses of water.
- Mix the fruit juice of your choice with mineral water and take it.
- Add more vegetables and fruits to your diet.
- Make a habit of splashing your face gently with water as many as 20 times.
- Exercise regularly.
- Practising yoga could help reduce body heat.



The Mongoose Saga 7

Sniff, sniff, sniff. "Yes, this makes sense," repeated Raja, the old tracker-mongoose. He walked round and round in slow circles, nose to the ground. Gundu, Keeri and

up and put his paws on his hips.

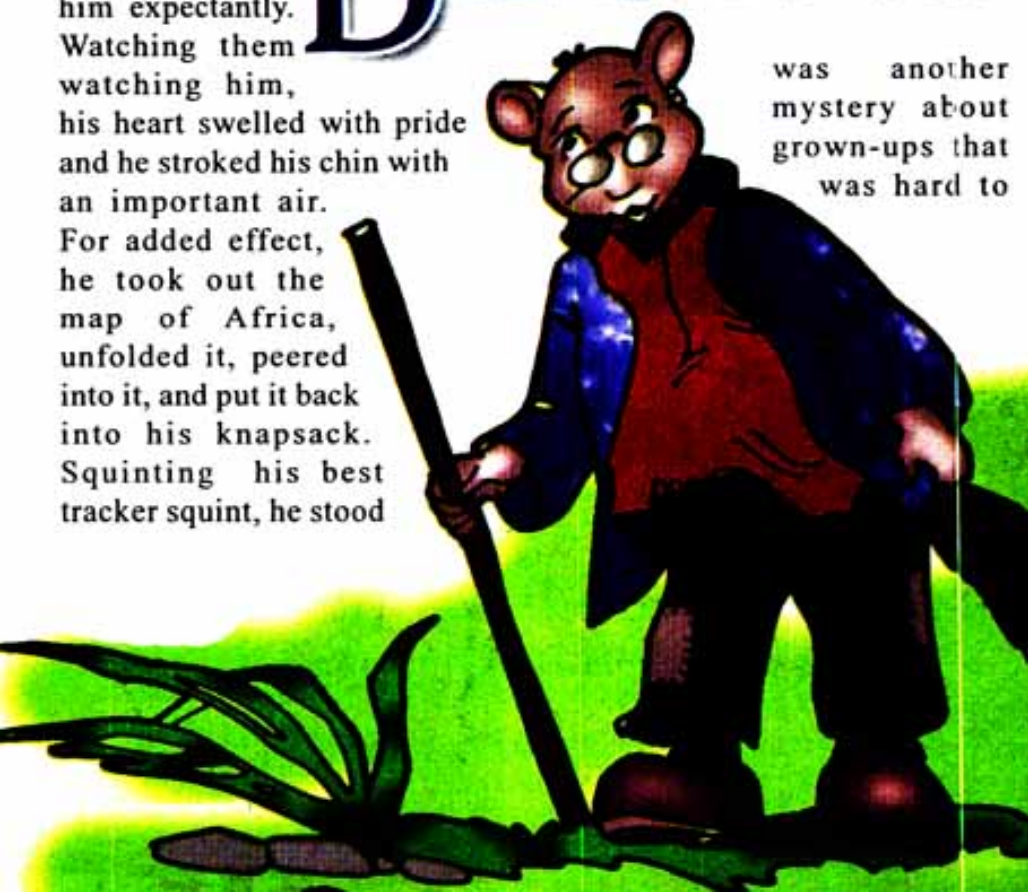
"Well," he said importantly, "I seem to have found the place. The exact place."

"Yes but... but I brought you here, didn't..I?" Bounce's voice died away as his parents signalled him to be quiet. This

The **SEARCH** **BEGINS**

Bounce watched him expectantly. Watching them watching him, his heart swelled with pride and he stroked his chin with an important air. For added effect, he took out the map of Africa, unfolded it, peered into it, and put it back into his knapsack. Squinting his best tracker squint, he stood

was another mystery about grown-ups that was hard to



ZAI WHITAKER



understand.. Often, they didn't like you to speak the truth!

Raja was looking upset. His nose twitched. "You may have shown me the place, young Bounce, but you may have been wrong! But now.. with my tracking detective skills, I have confirmed it. Get it?"

"Yes... oh yes, er... Sir!" stuttered poor Bounce.

"Shall we proceed?" asked Raja looking around importantly and adjusting his knapsack with shrugs and shakes of his shoulders and arms. "Just follow me."

They were standing on an open track in the coconut grove where Jumpy had been kidnapped, and on the ground were a jumble of human and animal foot-prints. These went



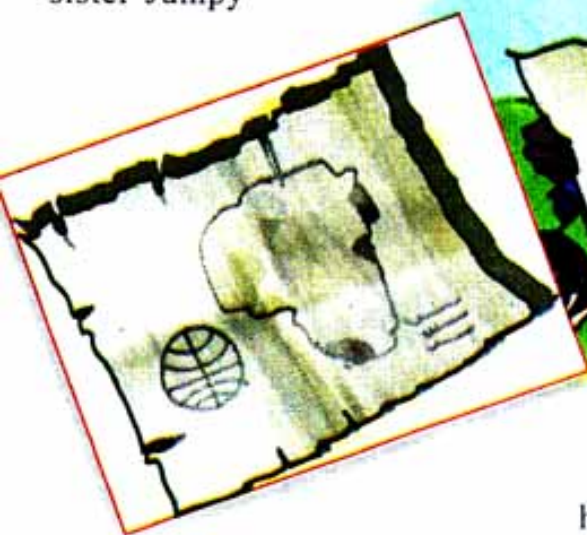
off in four different directions. Looking importantly at the ground for a minute, Tracker Raja strode importantly down the westward path, signalling "Follow Me."

And so the march began, with Raja in the lead, followed by Gundu, with Bounce and Keeri walking together behind him. "Now," said Bounce's mother, "tell me what happened. Exactly how it was. Where and why and when and which."

Bounce began telling her the story about how his beloved sister Jumpy

them. But they weren't really part of the story, he told himself, so why bother? And maybe... a small tear rolled down his right cheek... maybe he and Jumpy would never ever be able to do these favourite naughty things ever again. Because Jumpy was gone... and may already be on her way to Heaven.

But he did tell his mum about



had been kidnapped. He left out some small bits, such as how they'd "released" some tethered goats by chewing away at their ropes, and undone some straw bundles, and frightened some human children by screeching their loudest screech right behind



how they sat in the coconut grove, and fell asleep. And how the next thing he knew Jumpy was screeching with fright as a group of smelly humans carried her away. How he had run home instead of trying to save her, about which he felt terrible.

"Oh don't be silly, Bounce."

said his mum sternly. "You really are a goose."

"You mean a MON-geese." Keeri smiled. Bounce's sense of humour was slowly returning.

"No silly, I mean a TUE-geese," replied Keeri. It took Bounce a minute to get it. When he did, he smiled a small smile.



It wasn't all that funny, really, and puns shouldn't take ages to understand.

Raja had started humming a sort of military marching tune. Gundu looked back at Keeri and Bounce with a raised eyebrow, which said "Is this guy crazy?"

For a mongoose to hum a marching song was a sign of not-so-slight madness. Large animals like elephants and dinosaurs can go crashing about, trumpeting and yowling because they can stomp, or butt, or crush, enemies. But low-to-the-ground creatures like mongoose must lead a quiet life, trying to be as invisible as possible.

Bounce had been looking at the ground rather carefully, and now tugged at Keeri's paw. "Mum," he said breathlessly. "Look at this."

"What? What's this?"

Oh, Boy. Mothers! "Can't you see? Goats!"

"Goats? Where? I don't see any goats?"

Now they were joined by Gundu. "I don't either. But I do see goat tracks. We're following the wrong tracks."

Ahead of them,

Lalithaa Raja the Tracker unfolded his map of Africa and peered into it again. Gundu, Keeri and Bounce looked at each other in a paralyzed sort of way. Who was going to break the bad news to him?

"Well—who's going to tell him?" asked Gundu anxiously.

(To be continued)

Travel

The temple of Somnath, one of the twelve Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva, is in Sourashtra, Gujarat. It is situated 79 kms. from Junagadh and 25 kms. from Chorwad and well-connected by rail and air to Mumbai.

According to the legend, Somnath is as old as creation, built by none other than Soma, the Moon God himself. That is why here, Shiva is referred to as Somnatha. The Skanda Purana describes the Sparsa Linga of Somnath as one, bright as the sun, the size of an egg, and lodged



underground. The Mahabharata also refers to the Prabhasa Kshetra and the legend of the moon worshipping Shiva

It is said that people from the remotest parts of the country came to worship at the shrine. Revenues collected from ten thousand villages was spent on the maintenance of the temple. Two thousand priests served the idol and a golden chain attached to a huge bell plate announced the commencement of prayers.

The glory and wealth of Somnath was described by the Arab traveller, Al Biruni. It was his accounts that prompted Mohammed of Ghazini to visit this temple. He attacked and ransacked the temple in 1025 AD. It was immediately rebuilt by King Bhima of Gujarat and King Bhoja of Malwa. It was built like the Kaiash Mahameru in the Chalukya style of temple architecture.

This temple was destroyed again by Alaf Khan, the general of Allauddin Khilji in the year 1300 AD. King Mahipala of the Chudasama dynasty rebuilt it. This shrine was destroyed again and yet again in 1390, 1430, 1530 and finally in 1701 by Aurangazeb. It is the only structure in the world to have been destroyed

Somnath

repeatedly and rebuilt with perseverance each time on the same spot. In the year 1783, Queen Ahilyabhai Holkar built a new temple nearby.

A short distance from the Somnath temple is Bakhla Tirth, where Lord Krishna was said to have been struck by the stray arrow of a Bhil tribal. Hence this place of pilgrimage is of great significance to Hindus.

Veraval, the nearest town, was a fortified port town of the royal family of Junagadh. The old walls have been pulled down, but the

impressive Junagadh gate and Patan gate, both with intricate carvings, can still be seen. One can also see the old Nawabi palace, with Gothic features, facing the sea.

Entrance to the town of Somnath is through the Junagadh Gate—through which Mohammed entered the town. There are also the remains of an ancient Sun temple at Somnath.

The beach of Somnath is unshaded but lovely. Close by is the Prabhas Patan museum where the remains of the 11th

Prasad, the first President of India, re-installed the Jyotirlingam of Shiva on the same Bhramasila on which earlier temples had been built. Speaking on the occasion he said, "The Somnath Temple signifies that the power of reconstruction is always greater than the power of destruction."

To the south of the temple, on the sea shore, stands a pillar with an arrow

- The Indestructible

century version of Somnath temple can be seen. Close by is the Triveni Tirth, where three rivers meet the sea. As every waterbody is holy in Hinduisim, the meeting place for three rivers and the sea is four times as holy.

The temple, which stands today, was built in the traditional pattern on the original site by the sea. This was possible because of the efforts of Sardar Vallabhai Patel.

In 1951, Dr. Rajendra

— K. Keerthana, Std IX,
S.V. Union High School, Pune



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● The frog is an amphibian. An amphibian is an animal that lives on both land and water. It comes from the words 'amphi' meaning 'both' and 'bios' meaning 'life'

● Money is the main motivator for people these days. Where does the motivation for the word 'money' come from? It comes from Latin 'moneta' which was originally a title of the goddess Juno, in whose temple in Rome money was minted.

● Don't all of you love to eat sandwiches? They are so named after the fourth Earl of Sandwich (1718-92), an English nobleman said to have eaten them in this form so as not to leave his gaming table.

● Archery is a sport that was very popular in India. It comes from Old French 'archerie', based on Latin 'arcus' meaning 'a bow'.

● Astronomy is the study of stars. It comes from Old French 'astronomie', and Latin 'astronomia', meaning 'star-arranging'.

● Gypsies are members of a race who travel around and traditionally live in caravans. It is a shortened form of Egypt,

the country where they are popularly thought to have originated.

● Charles C. Boycott was an English land agent who collected high rents from the Irish. In return, they prevented him from purchasing anything



Money the Motivation!



from them or hiring workers from them. Thus the word 'boycott' originated!

Countdown

Raghav felt the vibrations from his cell-phone. He had kept it in silent mode since he was working in a hospital and did not want to disturb the patients. He opened the door to a balcony, responded to the phone call and immediately rushed to the administrative office.

As soon as he entered the office, the matron handed him a slip of paper. "Emergency call, Raghav! Take the ambulance to this address," she said.

Raghav was flabbergasted. "But...but..." he began.

"No ifs and buts: I was about to summon you, when you walked in here. A minute saved, saves a life! Now hurry!"

Raghav was a paramedic, which meant that he was not a doctor but could help doctors a great deal. He could give first aid, attend to drips, monitor the heart, take x-rays and do a host of other things to ease out the pressure on doctors.

"Duty first... and God help me" thought Raghav, as he rushed outside the hospital towards the parked ambulance.

Driver Krishna, who was enjoying a cup of tea spotted him and leaving his cup half full in the security cabin, hurried to get

into the driver's seat.

The ambulance was soon – weaving its way through traffic, its siren in full blast and the red-light on its roof flickering. Many cars stopped to give the ambulance right of way. Traffic policemen helped it to keep moving even when the signal lights at road junctions turned red!

The Life

Tarun was sitting by his grandmother who was in bed. Obviously she was in pain, for, she had her palms pressed over her chest and her eyes were closed tightly. But the pain had subsided in its intensity now. Tarun was soothing her. "The ambulance will be here in a couple of minutes" he said as he mopped the sweat from her forehead with his handkerchief.

As if in response to his statement the sound of a siren could be heard. It became louder as the ambulance reached the house, where Tarun lived. Tarun went to the front door to welcome the life savers. Raghav and Krishnan were walking briskly towards him but without giving any jolt to the stretcher they were carrying.

Soon grandma was transferred to



the stretcher and shifted to the ambulance. Tarun locked the front door quickly and stepped into the ambulance with Raghav.

"Nobody at home...eh...?" asked Raghav as he started to attend on grandma.

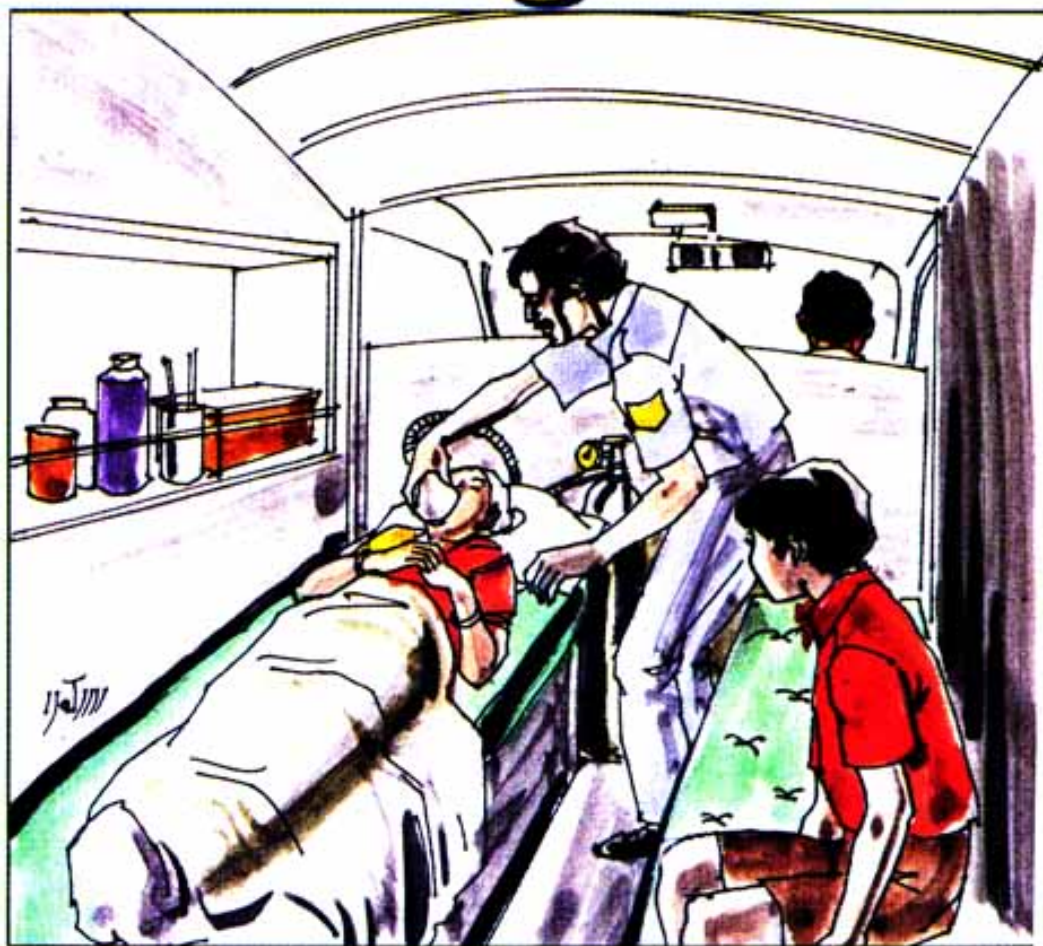
"Mom and Dad have left to attend a marriage but I had taped a note

on the front door even before your arrival."

"Clever boy!" said Raghav "Now just sit back, relax and watch me"

Raghav placed sensors on grandma's chest at appropriate places and connected the wires to a

Saving Link



heart monitor. He found that the heart was functioning but rather weakly. He took the blood pressure. It was low. He placed an oxygen mask covering her nose and mouth and asked her to breathe normally. In a few seconds the monitor showed improvement in the functioning of her heart.

"She's okay for now," said Raghav; "But she'll have to undergo some tests followed by expert treatment by the cardiologist attached to our hospital."

"Will she be operated upon?" asked Tarun in a rather shaky voice.

"That depends on the test results. The cardiologist will have to decide whether she needs surgery at all. He'll then have to consult the surgeon and anaesthetist to decide on whether she can withstand a heart operation. But don't worry, she'll be in safe hands."

The ambulance was speeding

along, with Krishna in the driver's seat fully aware of his responsibilities. He had to drive as fast as he could but very carefully to avoid any discomfort to the patient. Needless to say, he had to avoid even a slight accident.

"What will you do if her condition worsened on the way, instead of improving?" – Tarun asked a hypothetical question.

"Well, I have a few options and I will have to use my discretion" said Raghav. "At the worst, I can even try resuscitation of the heart by applying pressure at the right place and at regular intervals on the front of the patients's chest. It is known as heart massage. But I should act only within certain limits. I can't function like a doctor, you know." He patted Tarun on his shoulder. "Grandma will be alright. People usually survive the first heart attack."

Soon granny was in the intensive care unit with specialist doctors attending on her. Tarun heaved a sigh of relief as he sat in an ante room waiting for his parents to join him.

Raghav showed him the thumbs-up sign, smiled and walked towards the administrative office.

"Madam, the job is done; the patient is safe" he announced. "Now, I need your permission to take the rest of the day off. My mother is unwell and that's the phone call I received just before I left on this mission."



"How did Benjamin Franklin feel when he discovered electricity?"
"Shocked!"

— K. Jeya Ram, Std VIII,
Campion Boys A.I.H.S, Trichy

There is no egg in the eggplant or ham in the hamburger. English muffins were not invented in England and



French fries were not invented in France.

We sometimes take English for granted, but if we examine its paradoxes, we find that quicksand takes you down slowly. Boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is

neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

If the plural of tooth is teeth, shouldn't the plural of booth be beeth? Why do people recite at a play, yet play at a recital?

A house can burn up as it burns down. You fill in a form by filling it out.

English — a Peculiar Language!

When the stars are out they are visible. But when the lights are out they are invisible! And why is it that when I wind up my watch it starts, but when I wind up this observation, it ends?!



— Praveen Kumar, Age 17, Chennai

"Permission denied" said the matron. "Go to ward number 4, check the patient in bed number 5 and report back!"

Raghav felt sad and disappointed. But once again he responded to the call of duty. What a surprise! He found his mother in ward number 4; bed number 5! She was smiling and cheerful.

"Mom!" he cried aloud. Then controlling himself he asked, "what happened?"

"You said you'll call back in five minutes. But you didn't. So I punched your cell number again. By that time you had left on a mission. In your haste you had left your cell phone on the matron's desk. It was she

who answered my second call. She wanted to know if she could be of any help. I told her that I felt some physical discomfort and was afraid. She said that help was on the way and believe it or not, within ten minutes your chief's car was in front of our house! I was brought here. The doctors attending on me diagnosed my condition as a harmless gas problem. I'll be discharged by this evening."

"Thank God" said Raghav. His tension disappeared.

"Thank your boss too" said his mom. "Your chief is not only a good doctor, but also an extremely kind human being."

"That's how doctors should be; I'm proud to be working under him", said Raghav. "See you later, Mom!"

He walked off in pursuit of the duties waiting for him.

GOKULAM

Poster





Jenson Button



Formula One

Story

The day dawned beautifully. Ramesh was pleased with life. He had just called Amit and wished him on his birthday. Amit and Ramesh were best of friends from childhood.

Amit's gift was ready—beautifully wrapped and waiting to be delivered. It was a soft woollen sweater that Ramesh's mother had knitted.

In the evening, Ramesh rushed home from school, had a wash and

dressed in his best clothes. He picked up the gift for Amit. Saying bye to his mother, Ramesh set off for Amit's house on his cycle. As he turned the corner from his house, Ramesh saw a young boy huddled up against the lamp-post on the pavement. His clothes were in tatters and he was very still. Ramesh got off his cycle to see if he could be of any help. He found that the boy was in a semi-conscious state and was running a high



temperature. He was shivering.

Ramesh quickly unwrapped the gift and helped the boy wear the sweater. Ramesh realized the boy was in urgent need of medical help. He persuaded the boy to sit on his cycle and took him to the doctor. The doctor examined the boy and said

rushed to
Amit's house.

Just behind them Ramesh too arrived. Everyone was relieved to see him and there were questions all around.

Amit's mother offered Ramesh a glass of water and asked him to sit down. Then Ramesh told them about the sick boy and all that had happened.

The Birthday Gift!

that he was suffering from pneumonia and required to be hospitalised. The doctor then lauded Ramesh for having brought him, else he could have lost his life!

Ramesh was relieved, and promised to return next morning with the doctor's fees. By now it was rather late. Ramesh set out to Amit's house.

In the meanwhile Amit was worried and called up Ramesh's parents. He was waiting for Ramesh to come, so he could cut the cake. On hearing that Ramesh, who had left hours ago had not reached, his anxious parents

Ramesh's father, patted him and said, "Son you have done a very noble deed today."

Then Ramesh said to Amit, "My friend, I am sorry, I could not get you your gift."

Amit replied, "Ramesh you are my friend and the best gift to me given by God", and he hugged Ramesh.

"Come Amit, we'll cut the cake soon. We will all then go and look up the sick boy," Amit's father declared.

While eating the cake, Ramesh requested his mother Mother, "Mom please will you knit another sweater for my friend?"

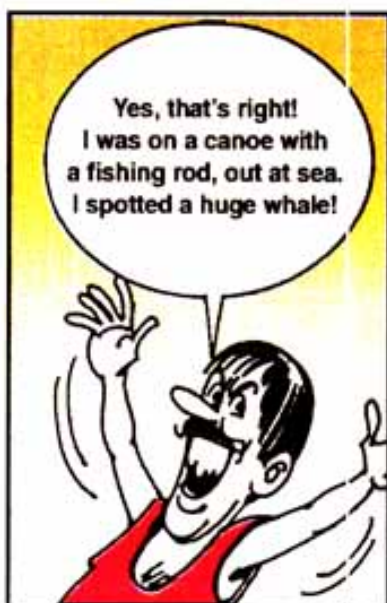
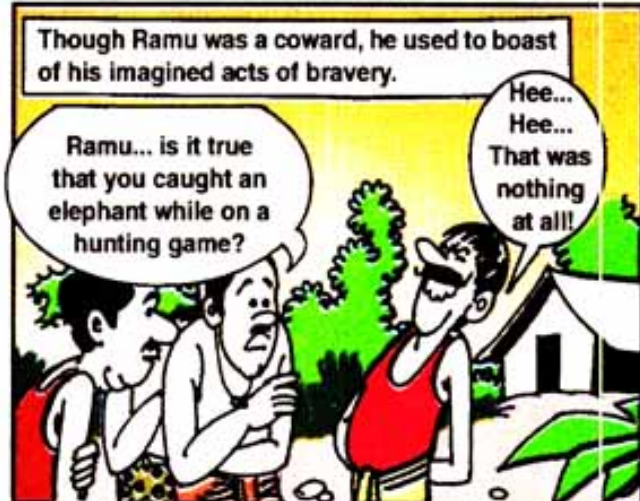
Ramesh's mother gave her word and kissed his forehead.

— Manisha Kabi, Std VIII,
Rajkumar College, Raipur



MOST COURAGEOUS MAN

Though Ramu was a coward, he used to boast of his imagined acts of bravery.



Meanwhile, a tiger had strayed into their village....

Run!
Run!
Tiger...
tiger...

Help! Help!

All villagers assembled.

It is dangerous.
We must capture the tiger!

Why should we be afraid?
We have brave Ramu with us!

Thus...

Ramu, you can easily catch him!

O...O...Ok,
I shall come!

Me
and my big
mouth!

Ramu went searching for the tiger in the woods.

Suddenly...

GRRR...

My God...!!



Frightened, Ramu ran an obstacle race in the woods!!!



The tiger too jumped behind Ramu. But...

Oh! I'm trapped....!

Just then the villagers reached there.

Oh!
Great!
Ramu caught
the tiger
so easily!

Give
me
water...



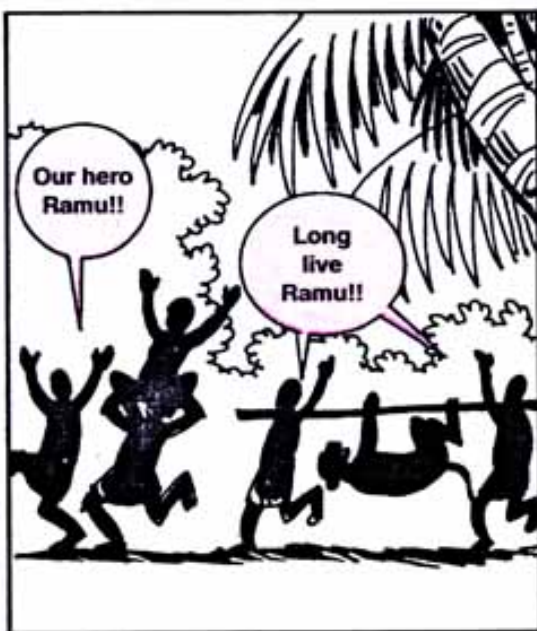
Ramu,
How did
you trap it
so soon?

Oh!
That was
nothing at
all!



Our hero
Ramu!!

Long
live
Ramu!!



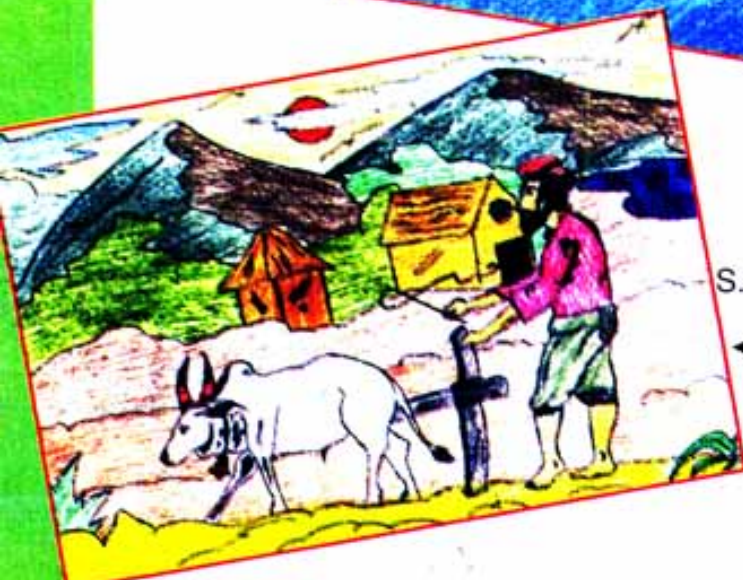


Vanitha James,
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Nizamia School,
Kolar



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Std VIII, D.A.V Sr.Sec.School,
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S.Swarna Lakshmi
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COLOUR Burst!

M. Shrinidhi
Std II, Velammal Matric
Hr. Sec. School, →
Chennai



Wonder Science

What natural substance can possibly be stronger than steel? Finer than human hair, lighter than cotton, the flimsiest looking common object, the spider web, is stronger than steel. A pencil thick strand of spider silk could stop a Boeing 747 in flight! In 1881, Goodfellow a doctor in Arizona observed that a spider silk handkerchief stopped bullets. Surely it's the right stuff for a super hero!

The elastic fibres of the golden orb-weaving spider, *Nephila clavipes* and orb-web spider, *Araneus diadematus*, stretch forty times its original length before they break. *Stegodyphus sarasinorum* is another champion weaver. Its fibres stretch up to twenty times! Compare this to man made objects: Steel stretches only eight times, and nylon about 20%.

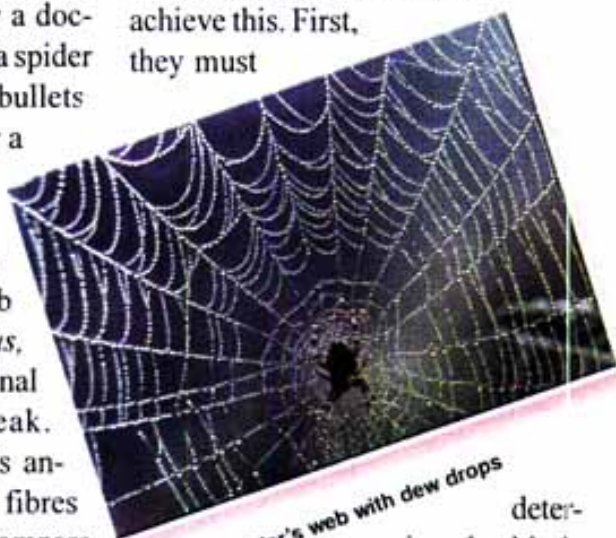
The spider silk has fascinated scientists, military, and entrepreneurs. Fishermen in Polynesian islands used the thread of *Nephila* as fishing line. New Guinea tribesmen wear waterproof hats made of spider webs! In 1709 Frenchman, Bon de Saint-Hilaire, made fabric from spider silk. About 1.3 million spider cocoons produced one kilogram of spider silk. It wasn't profitable.

The dragline silk enables a dan-

gling spider to plummet down and nab its prey.

The survival of the spider depends upon the strength of the dragline silk. The spider silk has evolved and perfected over 400 million years. The race among scientists is now to spin the first artificial silk.

There are several steps to achieve this. First, they must



Spider's web with dew drops

determine the kinds of molecules and their arrangement. Then, the scientists have to identify which genes yield silk proteins, and finally, they have to learn how to spin the raw material.

We now know that the silk has a protein called fibroine. This protein is made of only seven amino acids. How, wondered the scientists, does the silk protein not become decomposed by fungi and bacteria like all other proteins? The spider silk has three important substances that make it durable: pyrolidin, potassium hydrogen phosphate, and potassium



nitrate. The pyrrolidin binds water and prevents spider web from drying out. It also holds the glue that traps the insects. Potassium hydrogen phosphate makes the spider silk thread acidic and prevents fungal and bacterial growth. Acidity causes curdling of proteins, re-

University of Wyoming has cloned silk genes into bacteria. The bacteria can now produce silk protein in solution. He passes the solution through a fine tube to make synthetic silk fibres. The resulting fibre will not resemble spider silk,

SPIDER SILK



• Spiderman

but still be a good fibre.

There is one thing scientists can't do yet. Recycle the silk. Spider recycles the silk by eating it! Bad weather or catching prey can destroy the web. The spider simply eats up the old web and constructs a new one in its place!

• Spider's web in a park



member the sour milk. Potassium nitrate salts prevent this.

Scientists have also identified some large genes, about 22,000 base pairs, that help in producing the spider silk. How many base pairs are needed to make good quality thread? Nobody knows. One scientist in



HUMMINGBIRD

Aazhi

The hummingbird is the smallest bird in the world. Among this species, the ruby throated hummingbird is just 4 cm long. Its beak is half as long as its body. It weighs 2.5 gms. This species is found mostly in Cuba.

The diet of this bird is nectar from flowers. Its long bill and longer tongue aid in drawing the nectar from the base of the flower. While drawing the nectar, the tiny insects that also feed on the nectar, serve as prey.



The tongue of the hummingbird is in the shape of a tube, which helps to draw the nectar easily. The tongue is attached to the upper bill and starts from between the eyes. It folds back into the skull and comes out from between the bills. This arrangement enables the bird to stretch it extra long.

The feet are rather small. Because of this, they can sit only on twigs or thin branches. This bird can not move on the ground.

This bird builds the world's smallest nests. Made from moss and spider web, it is cup shaped, and the size of half a lime. This bird has the distinction of laying the smallest egg. It lays only one white egg at a time that weighs 2.5 gms and has a diameter of 10 mm.



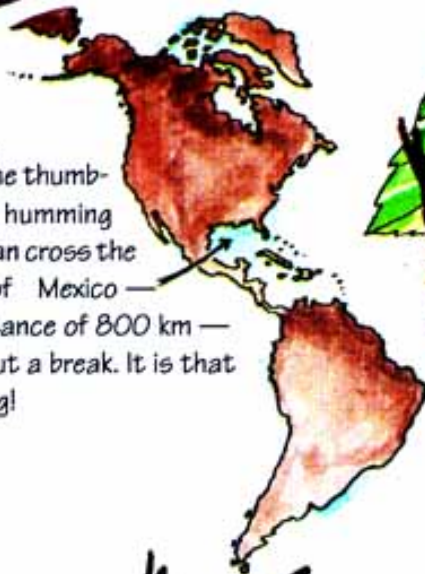
The wings measure 2 cm, which is half the length of its body. The wings flap 100 times per second! This action produces a humming sound and hence the name. It flies at a speed of 80 kmph.



The humming bird can fly in any direction. It can even fly backwards. It can fly straight up or straight down. It can stop mid-air in flight!



The thumb-sized humming bird can cross the Gulf of Mexico — a distance of 800 km — without a break. It is that strong!



The secret of its strength lies in its food, the nutritious nectar from the flowers. It drinks upto half its weight of nectar.

There are some larger varieties of humming birds too. Some are 15 cm long. The Bee humming bird, the Blue throated humming bird and the Black throated humming bird are some of them. Some have short bills. They drink the nectar by making a hole at the base of the flower.

Pot Pourri

The loving lioness

It was the sweetest picture, if a bit unreal – a lioness walking around with a baby oryx (a type of antelope). The lion, as we know, is the natural enemy of the antelope! But in this case the lioness had adopted the oryx, protecting it as if it were her own cub, allowing it's mother to come feed it, and then scaring it off!

Strange but true!



Unfortunately, the charming story has a sad ending. One day when the lioness took the oryx down to the river for a drink, a lion pounced on the baby oryx and made a meal of it.

The lioness was very very angry. Apparently she circled the lion dozens of times, roaring loudly and has not been seen in that area since.

– Rubina Isidore, Std XI,
SIA Junior College, Dombivli,
Thane.



The fire extinguisher

Fire is one of the greatest gifts man gave himself. But an unattended fire can cause a lot of damage. Only water helped.

A French doctor, François Carlier, invented the chemical fire extinguisher, in 1866. The extinguishing agent was a mixture of sodium bicarbonate and sulphuric acid,

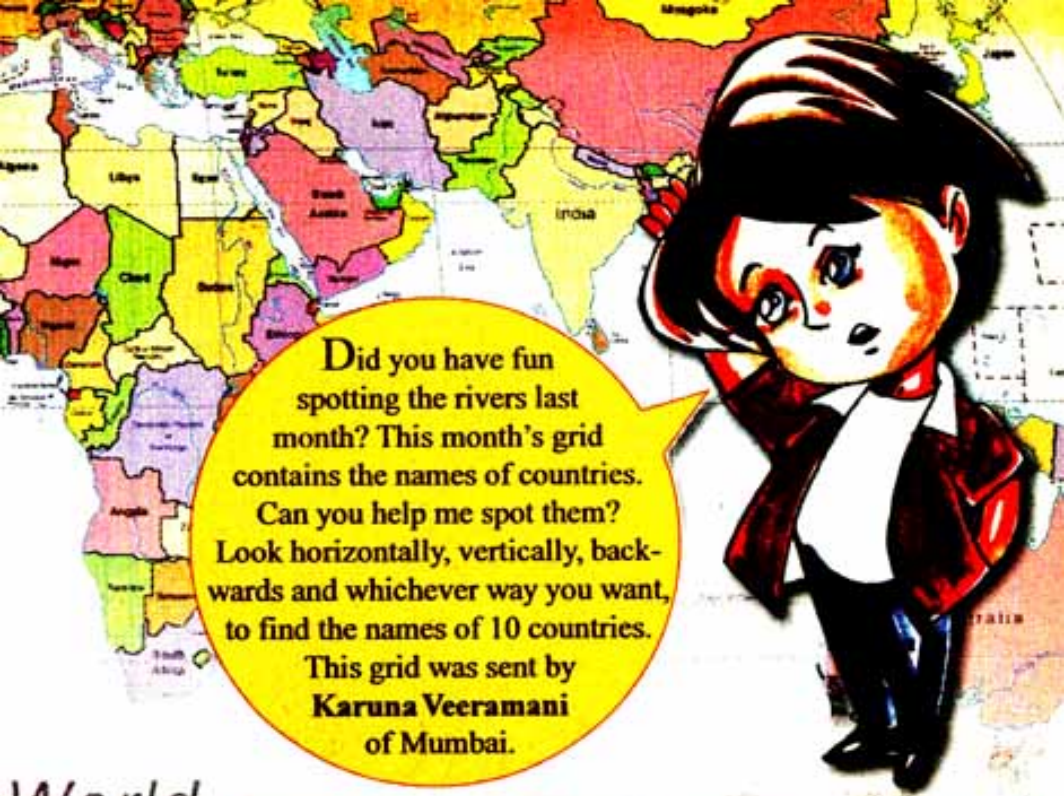
which forms a film that cuts off the fire's air supply. This was the first time there was no water used.

Prof. Alexander Laurent, a Russian, invented the foam fire extinguisher in 1905. The foam floats on top of the burning liquid and breaks the interaction between the flames and the fuel surface.

Now a days, chemicals are used to put out fires. Fluorocarbons are used because of their low toxicity, and zero ozone depletion property.

- Srishti,
Mishra, Std IX,
N.D.M. School,
Chitwadigi





World

Gogo's Grid-2

I	A	B	O	E	C	N	A	R	E	A	B
N	O	D	C	S	P	O	N	T	I	S	H
A	S	P	A	I	N	G	M	P	N	J	U
D	A	N	I	N	F	H	E	A	A	O	T
I	L	R	E	T	A	V	X	P	L	Y	A
B	H	P	X	B	D	C	I	U	N	E	N
O	A	O	M	Z	O	A	C	B	Y	O	X
L	I	R	N	J	Y	N	O	N	U	G	K
I	W	M	X	N	E	Z	E	L	R	N	D
V	E	A	E	L	T	P	Y	G	E	R	P
I	R	K	I	Z	L	A	D	N	P	O	T
A	I	B	M	A	Z	E	A	B	M	X	C

Gogo's Grid - 1

Congratulations!

The five

lucky winners are:

1. S. Srinath, Sri Sankara Vidyalaya, Chennai

2. R. Lakshmi Priya, Nirmala Rani English Primary School, Bangalore

3. M. Vasupradha, Sri Akilandeswari Vidyalaya, Srirangam

4. C.R. Santosh, Reserve Bank Staff Quarters School, Chennai

5. R. Maithreyi, S.R.D.F Vivekananda Vidyalaya, Chennai

T	A	K	R	I	S	H	N	A	S	I
A	U	Y	R	E	V	U	A	C	A	D
D	G	N	T	G	B	J	L	R	T	A
A	V	J	G	A	N	G	A	T	L	N
M	I	H	O	A	N	U	M	G	U	A
R	N	N	M	N	B	U	U	V	J	H
A	D	I	A	S	E	H	M	F	G	A
N	U	E	T	W	S	I	A	A	H	M
J	S	S	I	Q	V	K	W	D	Y	G
A	R	T	U	P	A	M	H	A	R	B
I	G	O	D	A	V	A	R	I	F	A

ENTRY FORM

Name : (Mr/Ms)

Age : Class

School :

*Residential Address :

..... Pin

Signature :

* Local address is a must for overseas entries.

**The Editor, Gokulam, Kalki Buildings,
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 032.**

• Strictly for school going children • Five lucky winners will get a cash award of Rs.50/- each. They will be decided by a draw of lots from out of the all correct entries. • Entries with completed grid on the reverse accepted on this form only • No xerox copies.

Last Date : 12.9.2006

Let's Cook Up



Marie biscuit Pizza

Ingredients :

2 onions, 2 capsicums cut in very small pieces.

1½ cup tomato sauce

1 tsp ajwain

1 tbsp butter

Salt to taste

Cheese cubes and Marie biscuits

Spread this

mixture on

Marie biscuit and spread grated cheese over it.

Enjoy this delightful snack with your family and friends.

– Apoorva Shenoy, Std X,
Bhavan's AH Wadia High School,
Mumbai

Method:

Fry capsicum and onion in butter. Add ajwain and salt to taste. Mix in tomato sauce.



SOME LIKE IT COLD!

Custard

Ingredients :

Cream - 250 gms, condensed milk - 2 tsp, sugar - 5 tsp custard powder - 1½ tsp, cardamom, dry fruits and seasonal fruit for seasoning

Method

Dissolve the sugar in half a cup of lukewarm water. In a big bowl take 250 gms of cream. Add the sugar solution, condensed milk and custard powder to the cream and beat it. Crush the cardamoms and add to it. Pour this mixture into the ice cream bowls and keep in the freezer for thirty minutes. Remove the bowls when set and season with fruits and nuts.

- V.M. Kannan Std IX, DTEA Sr.Sec.School,
Sector - IV, R.K.Puram, New Delhi

Personality

Dadasaheb Phalke made India's first indigenous feature film and spawned the growth of Indian cinema. He is rightly known as the Father of Indian Film Industry.

He was born as Dhundiraj Govind Phalke on 30 April 1870 in Trymbakeshwar in Nasik. His father was a Sanskrit scholar. As a child Phalke was inclined towards creative arts. He joined the Sir J.J. School of Art, Mumbai in 1885. A man of varied interests, he learnt photography, li-

While working in the celebrated painter Raja Ravi Varma's lithography press, he was influenced by a series of paintings of the Hindu gods done by Varma. These images influenced the portrayal of various gods and goddesses in the mythological films that Phalke made later.

In 1908 he set up Phalke's Art Printing and Engraving Works with a partner. However, his business collapsed due to differences between him and his partner. It was a chance viewing of the film 'Life of Christ' (1910) that marked a turning point in

• Trick Photograph!

DADASAHEB



thography, architecture, amateur dramatics and became adept even at magic. He briefly worked as a painter, a theatrical set-designer, and as a photographer with the state Archaeology Department.

Phalke's life. Deeply moved by the film, it became his mission to bring Indian images alive on screen. In 1913,

India's first silent film Raja Harischandra was released by Phalke. Scripted, produced, directed, and distributed by him, the film was a huge success. When the acting profession was taboo for women, he introduced a female actor in the leading role in his film Bhasmasur Mohini



(1913). Phalke established the Hindustan Film Company in 1917 and went on to produce several films. A talented film technician, Phalke was a genius in special effects. He explored a

• A scene from a silent film



PHALKE

vast range of techniques including animation, tinting and toning. He used scenic models for a number of sequences, including the burning of Lanka for which he also burned down two full size sets! His mythological themes and trick photography delighted his audience.

His successful films were Lanka Dahan (1917) India's first box office hit, Krishna Janma (1918), Sairandari (1920), and

Shakuntala (1920).

With the introduction of sound in cinema and the expansion of the film industry, Phalke lost popularity. He left film making. However in 1931, he tried again with Setu Bandhan. Coming at the last moment of the silent era, it was ill-timed and Phalke tried to salvage it by post-synchronizing dialogue. He made a talkie, Gangavataram (1937) but the tide was no longer

with him and he died in Nasik in 1944, a forgotten man.

However he will always remain the founder of the world's largest Film Industry. Today the most prestigious award of the Indian Film Industry,



• Dadasaheb Phalke

the 'Dadasaheb Phalke Award' is named after him—an award given by no less a personage than the Indian president.

— Sudarshan Subramanian,
Std X, Holy Angels School,
Sahidabad (UP)

Penpals

Name: Ashwini. S.P

Age : 13

Address : Aravali House, J.N.R Chara, Udipi Dist - 576 112

Hobbies : Dancing, singing, collecting pictures, painting, watching TV, doing embroidery.

Name: Jyoteppa S. Khot

Age : 16

Address : Hoysala House, Xlth Std, Sainik School, Bijapur - 586 102

Hobbies : Horse riding, listening to music, swimming, reading novels, writing diaries.

Name: C. Prashanth

Age : 9

Address : 166, 7th main Gururaja Layout behind Lidyapeeira, T.R. Nagar Post, Bangalore - 560 028

Hobbies : Playing cricket, volleyball, reading story books.

Name: Shwetha.R.Marar

Age : 13

Address : EF-4/203, Vrindavan Gardens, Pattom, Trivandrum - 695 004

Hobbies : Reading Gokulam and other books, dancing, singing, cycling, gardening, painting.

Name: Anmol Jain

Age : 11

Address : Flat No. 1401/20E, MHADA, NTPC, A.S.Marg, Powai

Vihar, Mumbai - 400 076.

Hobbies : Cricket, football, reading books, watching TV, swimming.

Name: Priya Shrinivas

Age : 14

Address : 12, 11nd Cross St, V.P. Colony, Chennai - 600 023

Hobbies : Reading, music, collecting pictures of film stars, drawing, painting, cycling.

Name: Amarpreet Kaur Guram

Age : 15

Address : Vill. Dharmo Majra (Dera), Majithia Enclave, near 24 No. Phatak, Patiala - 147 001

Hobbies : Reading, listening to music, dancing.

Name: Harshitha.M

Age : 12

Address : Suguna Nilaya House, Beeranhabail, Kasargod - 671 121

Hobbies : Playing, collecting stamps, singing, cleaning house, writing letters, listening to stories and music and reading Gokulam

Name: C.J. Subramaniam

Age : 14

Hello there..!



Address : A/16 Sanmati Apt,
P&T Colony, Dombivili (east)
Mumbai - 421 202

Hobbies : Playing computer,
cycling, dancing, gardening, read-



ing Gokulam and other books,
drawing, listening to music.

Name: Pradhar Kashyap E.P

Age : 12

Address : No. 281, 9th Main,
Milk Colony, Malleshwaram West,
Bangalore - 560 055.

Hobbies : Playing cricket, read-
ing Gokulam, watching comedy
movies and cycling.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Dear Readers,

You may send in your contributions to **Gokulam** either by post or by e-mail.(gokulam@kalkiweekly.com)

Remember to send in your details — **Name, Age, Class, Name and address of school, Residential address and a declaration stating that the contribution is your original creation. (Source must be mentioned wherever applicable.)**

We cannot guarantee publication of all your contributions nor is it possible to inform you about when it will be published. However, if you would like us to send it back on rejection, kindly enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope.

- Editor

PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATE

If any of your creative contributions are published in **Gokulam** you will receive a **Participation Certificate**. (Letters and queries do not qualify). At the end of the one year period ending June 2007, the contributor who has collected the maximum number of certificates will receive a special prize.

Puzzle

I. Add one letter to each line to make two new words. The letter you add will be the last letter of the word on the left and the first letter of the word on the right. Example: Put O on the first line to make 'cello' and 'open'. When you're done, read down the column to find a new word. Make sure that the letters you add work for both words!

Cell _ Pen
Tram _ Rice
Plus _ Air
Char _ Rail
Fort _ ILL
Sag _ Wake
Ease _ Adder
Spas _ other
Rode _ wing
Grave _ Ever
Hell _ Pal
Thin _ Host
Ant _ Con
Discus _ Print
Fines _ Ravel

– Sushma S. Kini, Age 13, Udipi

II 1. Which nail should never be hit by a hammer?

2. What can you tell about nitrates?

3. What has wings but cannot fly?

4. What looks empty when full?

5. Why is an empty purse always the same?

6. How many burgers can you eat on an empty tummy?

7. Why is it bad to write on an empty stomach?

8. When are your eyes not eyes?

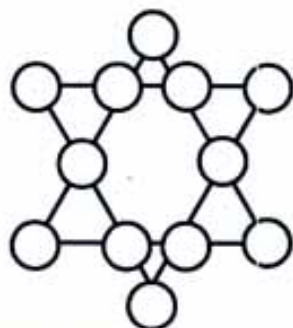
9. If you throw a green shoe into the red sea, what would it become?

10. What would you take off last when you go to bed?

– S. Sai Priya, Std IX, Mahatma Gandhi Centenary Vidyalaya, Trichy



III. Take a good look



at this six pointed figure. This is what is known as a magic star. Place num-



bers 1 to 12 in such a way that their sums in every row and every point adds upto 26.

- N. Prajorpathikalai, Std VIII,
Mangalam M.H.R.S.School,
Bhuvanagiri

6. Which country is friendly?

7. What has never been, will ever be, but never will be seen?



Question Time!



8. Where would you find a lot of cities but not even a single house?

- E. Aravindan, Std XI,
PSG Sarvajana H.S.S,
Coimbatore

IV. 1. When will a horse have six legs?

2. Which country encourages slavery?

3. Where does Monday come before Sunday?

4. To which question would the answer always be 'yes'?

5. Which age has a lot of rubbish in it?

IV. 1. When someone rides on it, 2. Yugoslavia via, 3. In a dictionary, 4. How will you pronounce 'Y-E-S'? 5. Garbage, 6. Nepal, 7. Tomorrow, 8. On a map



III
9. Wet, 10. Your feet off the floor, 11. Finger nail, 12. They are cheaper than day rates, 3. Mansion, 4. Balloon, 5. Because there is no 'change' in it, 6. Only one after that your turny is not empty, 7. It is better to write on paper, 8. When the wind makes them water, 9. Wet, 10. Your feet off the floor.

I OPTHALMOLOGIST

Answers:

Have your say

Rakesh was a second year MBBS student. His parents were worried that his marks had come down. He was sent for counselling. It was then that many shocking realities came to light.

Rakesh had prepared for both the engineering and medical entrance examinations while doing his +2 classes. He performed well in both ex-



Who gets to choose?

aminations. He got admission into the IIT, which needless to say, is the greatest ambition of every engineering aspirant. But his parents were very particular about making a doctor of him. The boy was disappointed and disheartened. Being the only child of his parent, he wanted to see them happy. Without a word of protest, he joined up for the MBBS course. Obviously, as he was forced to study something

that was completely against his choice, his interest in studies declined and soon his marks sank.

Now, tell me dear friends, who is to blame? The parents, I think.

There are many ways to determine the career options of a student.

The skills and strengths of the student are matters of top priority. He/she must be given proper career guidance which can help make the right choice.

Persuading a child to choose a field which is completely contrary to his interest, is unfair. Parents may have their justification. They may want to fulfil their own dreams through their children.

Sometimes parents follow the 'trend' or what is currently popular. Herd mentality...?

Parents must understand that their children too have dreams and aspirations. No matter how liberal parents are in all other matters, if they are unwilling to let their children pursue their own career, they are not at all liberal!

Students who choose the right career for themselves always emerge successful in their life. Hence, most distinguished and respected parents, "Let students choose".

(This is a true story. The name has been changed to protect the student's identity.)

— H. Ganesh, Std XII,
K.V.1, Palakkad



Plus-Minus

Best
Entry



PLUS

- Rahul Dravid or The Wall, as he is called is a very patient batsman who can anchor the team.
- He is a consistent player and very valuable to the team
- He is a shrewd and capable captain, who leads his team by example.
- In test cricket, he is ranked the world's second best batsman.

MINUS

- He is a very slow batsman, with a low run rate.

The Great Wall

- He plays one-dayers like test matches.
- His handling of the bowlers and fielders has often failed to restrict the opposition's scoring.
- As a captain he seems unable to take critical decisions. Because of this the team has lost some matches.

— V.C. Sowmya Shruti, Std VIII,
Padma Sarangapani School,
Chennai



Shah Rukh Khan, or King Khan as he is referred to is a much loved actor. We also see him in a number of advertisements. What do you think are his plus and minus points?

Your views should be stated in hundred words. The best entry wins a prize of Rs.100/-. The entries should reach Gokulam by 11th September. Remember to include your name, age, class, name of school and residential address.

Viewpoint

Good company will help inculcate good habits. Bad company could result in a child developing unhealthy practises like smoking, drinking, drugs and abusive language. So, parents should have a say and an eye on their child's friends.

— **Ajit Rengaswamy, Std. VIII,
Rotary School, Madurai.**

Children instilled with the right values at home would definitely make the right choice of friends. Parents should have confidence in the judgement of their child and not interfere in the child's choice of friends.

— **Prithvi Raj, Std IX,
Kendriya Vidyalaya-1
Hyderabad**

Friendship plays an important role when children reach adolescence. It becomes necessary for parents to be guides and watch out for their children's friends since peer pressure can bring about unfavourable changes. However parents can help them better by having free and frank discussions.

— **R. Aadhirai, Std- X,
Kendriya Vidyalaya,
Ashok Nagar, Chennai.**

The guidance of parents is essential in whatever the child does,



Tell Me Your

be it studies or the choice of friends. It is in the company of these friends that he learns and shares a lot of things. Parents are responsible for the development of the child.

— **Vishranka Aithal, Age 15,
Mangalore.**

Friendship depends on the likes and dislikes of an individual. Friendship should be for friendship's sake and not based on social or economic status. True friendship will stand the test of time. While parents' advice should be taken in the right spirit by children, parents must resist excessive control. A balance has to be struck. If the child does not heed



the advice, then let him/her learn the hard way.

— **V.Priya, Std IX,
M.E.S. Kishora Kendra,
Bangalore.**

Surely no. Responsible parents will bring up their children with the ability to distinguish between good and bad. Perhaps a friend can help in turning bad into good! A child

correct them. The intervention of parents should be gentle through reasoning and guidance. Being dictatorial will only push the young the wrong way. Young people should be allowed to form friendships under the watchful eye of parents.

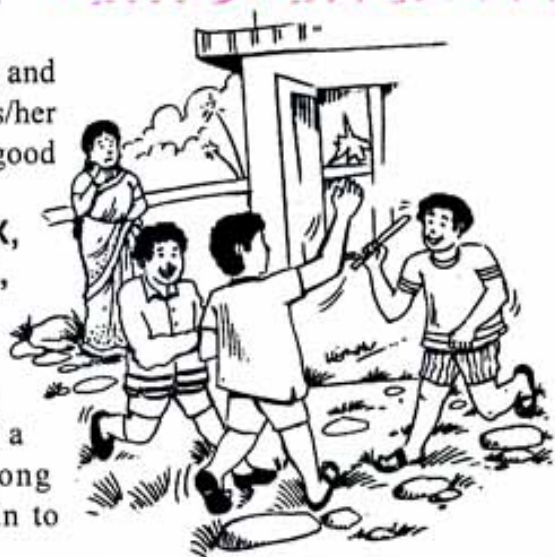
— **K. Vasanth, Std VII,
Jawahar HS School, Neyveli**

Friend's Name and....

brought up with confidence and self control will not need his/her parents' advice in choosing good friends.

— **K.P. Soorya, Std. IX,
Kendriya Vidyalaya,
Annanagar, Chennai**

Youngsters instinctively choose good friends. But if a youngster gets into wrong company, parents can step in to



QUESTION FOR THE MONTH

Should sports be given as much importance as academics?

Send us your views by 11.9.2006. Each published entry will receive a prize of Rs. 25/-. Remember to include details of your age, class, school and residential address. Those of you who are non - residents of India should send us a local (Indian) address too. You can send entries by post or by e.mail (gokulam@kalkiweekly.com)

Cover Story

If it were to rain or snow all year round would we like it? Or if it were summer all twelve months? Oh no! It would be monotonous. We want a change every few months! Sun for some time and rain or snow, in colder climes, for a while. And other seasons in between.

India has a unique geography. A peninsular sub-continent, with an extensive coastline, India straddles, the Tropic of cancer. This makes for both tropical and temperate climates. The Himalayas stand tall in the north protecting us from the harsh cold winds that sweep across Central Asia. This combination of relief features gives us six seasons with two monsoons. And the Vindhyas in central India, divides the landmass.

Much has been written and sung about Nature as she transforms herself from the vibrant freshness of spring to the restful stillness of winter. The Sanskrit epic, Ritu Samhaara — A Garland of Seasons — by poet Kalidasa, is considered the most eloquent. He describes the changing seasons—vasant ritu, greeshma ritu, varsha ritu, sharad ritu, hemant ritu and shishir. Hinduism is more a way of life rather than a religion, with the special significance of seasons through religious festivals.

Vasant is the season when nature

is at its beautiful and bountiful best. It is a season of new beginnings. Flowers are in full bloom and trees sprout new shoots. It is a season when nature regenerates and everything is fresh and new. New life is evident in the woods and fields! Wheat and other crops enliven with new life and vitality. Mustard fields turn into a heady mix of yellow and green as the blossoms add colour, poetry and romance to life. Kite flying is popular on Vasant Panchami, the day that heralds the start of spring. The days

The Garland of Seasons

leading to the festival represent busy times for kite makers, as the usually clear blue skies are filled with kites of all colours, sizes and shapes.

The nip in the early morning air disappears with Shivrathri, which falls in late February or early March. The days grow longer, and hotter, as the sun traverses over the land, till it reaches the Tropic of Cancer. It is the season of mangoes—the luscious king of fruits! As the days grow more



oppressive the late afternoons bring the song of the koels calling the rains.

Greeshma ritu gives way to varsha ritu. The monsoons set in, moving steadily from the southwest. It encompasses almost the entire country, save the east coast, which receives its rains in October and November. The first showers bring the heady scent of fresh earth. Then

* Season stamps!



the heavens open up! The ponds and lakes fill up, as the dry earth is satiated. The rivers, filled to the brim, rush to meet the sea. You can hear the frogs serenade in the moonlight.

As the rains ease, leaving nature all verdant and green,

sharad ritu moves in.

There is joy and merriment in the air once more. The season of festivals start. Vinayak Chathurthi, Navrathri, Dusshera, Durga puja, Diwali! The east coast is watered by the northeast monsoon. Hemant Ritu, or late autumn, is in. The days grow shorter. The warm clothes are brought out and aired in the sun. Hemant slips away quietly.

Cold nights, when one huddles into quilts or *kumblis*. A watery sun one waits for. Afternoons spent out on the terrace or garden sunning our backs. Shishir has arrived.

There is a time to work and play, and a time for rest. Winter is when Mother Nature rests and gathers her strength. A time of deep sleep. There is stillness everywhere. We find snow in the northern reaches of the country, in the areas adjoining the Himalayas.

The birds start chirping, and young shoots make their appearance. Then comes spring once more! New beginnings!

Birthday Bash

Preeti Shridhar Hegde celebrates her 12th birthday on 24 Sept.

Happy Birthday and many many happy returns of the day.

— Poonam Balakrishna
Age 11, Surat



Kaveri Narayanan, celebrates her 14th birthday on Sept 10.

Happy birthday and many happy returns, dear sis!

— Skanda Narayanan,
Age 12, Chennai

S. Jaganth Nivasan, celebrates his 12th birthday on 27 September.

Wish you a happy and prosperous future. Friends are like leaves present everywhere. Best friends like you are diamonds. Many more happy returns of the day.

— S. Gokul, Age 8,
Coimbatore





Bharath Krishnan, celebrates his 14th birthday on 30 Sept.

My sincere wishes to you, cousin, from us and all Gokulam readers. Happy Birthday.

— Naresh and Ajit Rengaswamy, Age 12, Madurai



Best



Participation Certificate Special Prize

P.S.V.S.K. Sai Deepak, Std VIII, Sainik School, Korukonda Andhra Pradesh, wins Gokulam's Special Prize. He has received the maximum number of (seven) participation certificates, between July 2005 and June 2006. He has contributed to a variety of columns. The GOKULAM family congratulates Sai Deepak and wishes him all the very best.

The special prize offer continues for this year too! We would like each and everyone of you to write to us. Start collecting your participation Certificates. You may be the winner next year.



DUMPY

3

Dumpy Meets a Ghost

Story : Marudhan

Pictures : Pillai

Dumpy and gang are on a trek.



Dumpy and Dolly are lost.

Which way did they go?
I can't see them.

We are lost.
But I can't tell Dolly.
She looks scared.

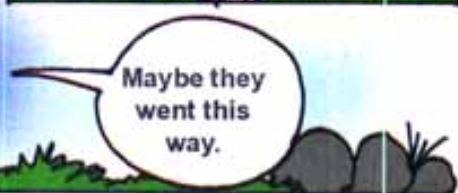


Hurry up, Dolly.

Oh!
My legs hurt.



Maybe they went this way.



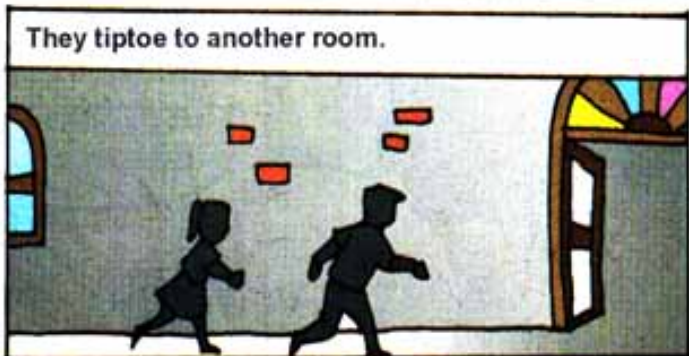
I can see a house....

Should we go there...?

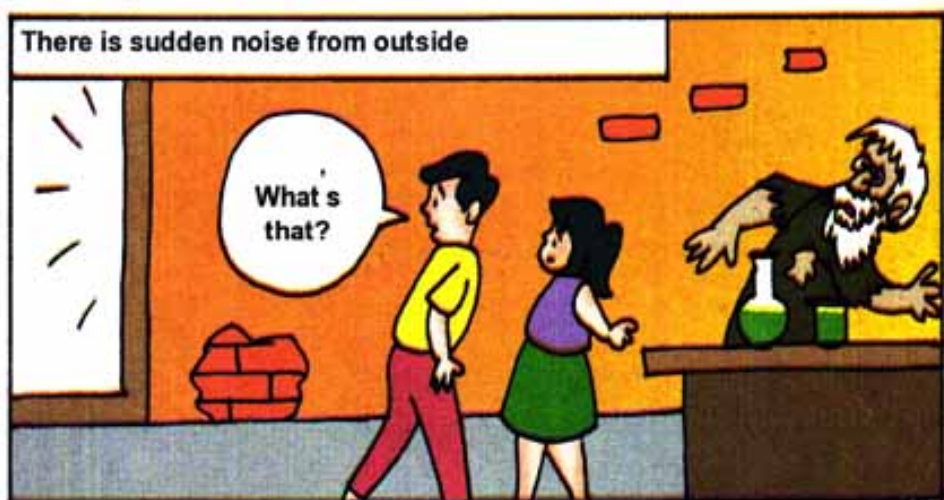
Dolly are you frightened?

Yes a bit.









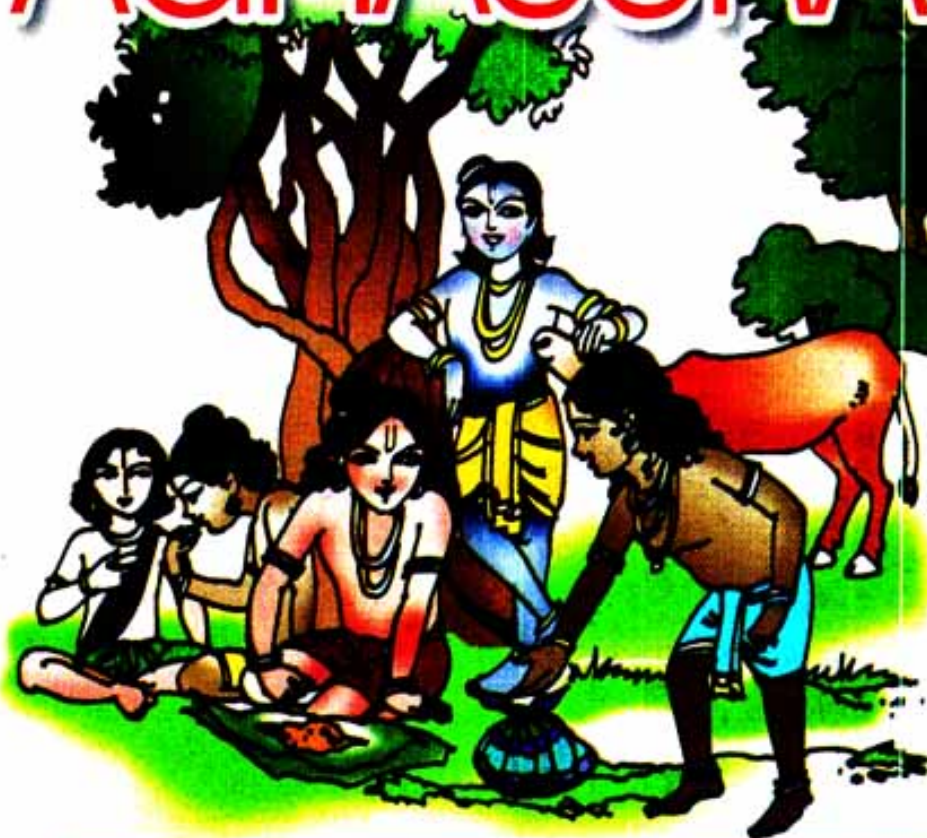
Story

One day Krishna desired to have breakfast in the forest. He rose early in the morning and played on his flute. The gopas heard the sweet melody and woke up too. They came out of their houses, their calves following them. They came carrying

slings, sticks, horns flutes and pots of curd and rice.

They were in very high spirits as they made their way to the forest. Some gopas played their flutes and blew their horns. Some hummed like the

THE DEATH OF AGHASURA





bees and some cooed like the birds. Some chased the shadows of birds; others imitated the graceful walk of swans, some danced the dance of the peacocks. Some gopas pulled the tails of monkeys and climbed trees after them; they mimiced them and jumped from tree to tree after them. It was all tremendous fun. They skipped and romped about. They

wrestled and joked and chattered endlessly. They teased and raced and laughed and sang. Little did they know of the danger that lay ahead of them!

There was a demon called Aghasura. He was the younger brother of Poothana and Bakasura who had been destroyed by Krishna. He was determined to

avenge their deaths. He swore to himself that he would kill Krishna and all the laughing, chattering gopas. Aghasura stretched himself into the form of a huge python, and lay waiting with his mouth wide open. His lower jaw rested on the earth and his upper jaw touched the sky. He lay still, and waited patiently for the gopas to walk into his mouth.

When the gopas came near, the waiting asura, they playfully started wondering about what lay before them. Some said it was a colossal serpent, others said it was the goddess of Birindavan, and some that was just the forest. Then they said, 'So what if it is a serpent? We will surely not come to any harm when we have

Krishna with us.' So saying, they walked on — straight into the mouth of the serpent. They clapped their hands joyfully and bubbling with laughter they, with the calves, walked on the tongue of the villainous asura, thinking it to be a smooth, broad road!

Krishna had known of this death trap. But he had no time to warn his companions, so engrossed were they in their merry making. The demon Aghasura did not immediately close his mouth, because his main aim was to kill Krishna. Krishna pondered for a while as to what would be the best course to take. After a moment or two, he entered the mouth of the giant serpent. He wedged himself in Agasura's throat and assumed his divine viswaroopa — a gigantic form. Aghasura choked and then breathed his last. With great speed, Krishna brought his friends out and saved them just as they were about to be consumed by the demon's poisonous breath.

Krishna then took the gopas to the banks of the Yamuna where they feasted and played. The gopas spent the evening listening to Krishna's melodious music, before returning home, a happy and contented lot!

Retold by
Sruti Mukundan,
 Std IX,
D.A.V.Public School,
Kolkata



Teacher: Do birds have sharp eye sight?

Student: Yes, ma'am.

Teacher: How can you tell?

Student: I have never seen a bird wearing spectacles.

— **Neha Badmi,**
 Std VIII, **Dream World School,**
Bellary

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Tinku

Story,
Pictures:
Pillai

When there is danger, the tortoise withdraws into its shell and escapes.



The porcupine shoots its quills in self defence.



The octopus squirts a fluid... to quickly drive away its enemies.



The chameleon changes its colour to merge with its surroundings.



There should not be any veggies left over in your plate!



Do I have any special way of escaping ... ?



L.N:Meena, Std.II,
TVS Lakshmi School, Mādurai

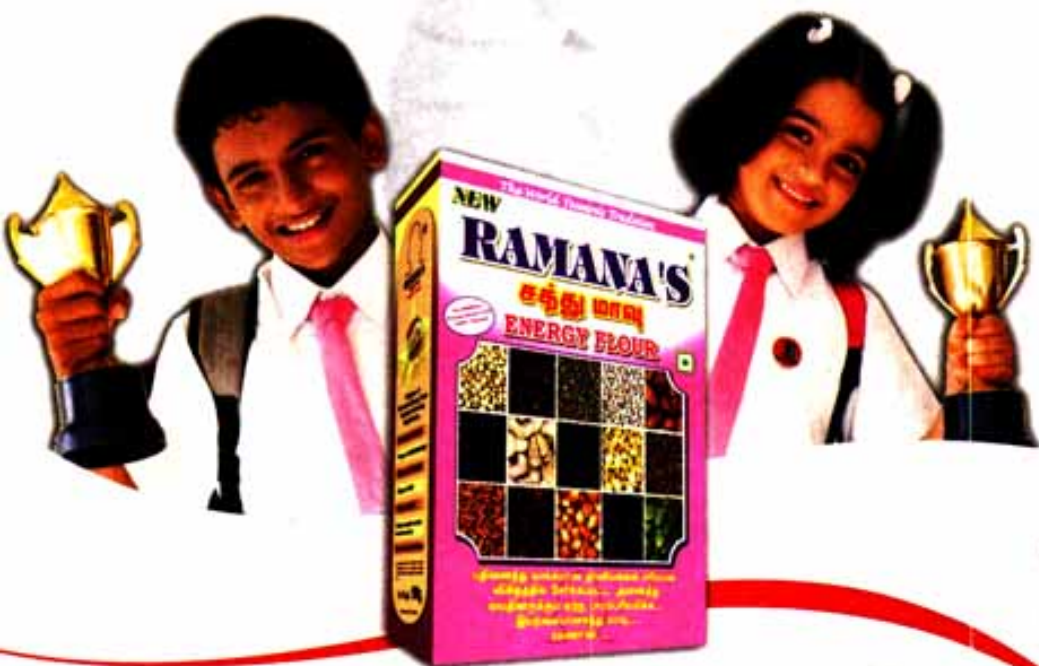


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